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VOP REPORT ON ESCALATED PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL

NC281933Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Palestinian revolutionaries have escalated their heroic and audacious operations against the enemy's vital installations. During the past 48 hours, revolutionaries conducted three operations against the enemy's fuel depot in Jerusalem, the central market in the city of Yafo and the police command of the southern area of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian military spokesman stated that a group of our revolutionaries planted a magnetic incendiary bomb underneath a military tank truck full of fuel inside the military fuel depot near the 'Ayn Harun school in 'En Kerem quarter of occupied Jerusalem. The charge exploded in the morning, day before yesterday, setting fire to the tank truck and injuring a number of the enemy soldiers working in the depot.

The occupation authorities cordoned off the entire area and evacuated the school close to the site of the fire, sending the students to shelters. It took 3 hours to bring the fire under control.

The enemy radio has reported the operation, saying that the fuel depots near which the tank truck exploded contained 27,000 liters of gasoline and, had the fire spread to the gasoline, a catastrophe would have occurred.

Another revolutionary group placed time bombs inside Yafo's central market. The charges went off yesterday morning as thousands of settlers were shopping. An unknown number of enemies sustained various injuries. A shop was destroyed and burned. The contents of neighboring shops were also destroyed. The Zionists security, police and coast guard forces evacuated the settlers from the market and nearby factories and then made widespread arrests. Scores of Palestinian citizens were arrested on the charge that they were connected with the operation.

At 0800 today, the Zionist security forces discovered a time bomb outside the entrance of the police command of the southern area of Jerusalem. Our revolutionaries planted the charge this morning despite strict security measures and guards stationed nearby.

The enemy radio has said that explosives experts were immediately called to defuse and neutralize the charge. Meanwhile, the Zionist security forces evacuated settlers and cars from the area fearing other unexploded charges might be in the area.

FATAH'S ABU MAZIN ON TALKS IN QATAR, PLANNED VISIT TO JORDAN

LD240955Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Nov 78 p 1 LD

[Splih Zaytun report]

[Text] Doha--Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, has left Doha after a 2-day visit to Qatar during which he met with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Tahni, the ruler of Qatar, and Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah.

Abu Mazin told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he felt that the UAE and Qatar are ready to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions regarding the rejection of settlements ignoring the Palestinian people's right and to support the PLO.

Referring to Saudi Arabia's support for the Palestinian revolution, Abu Mazin said: "Saudi Arabia is still our biggest financial supporter; it gives us three times as much as all the Arab countries combined, and without any strings."

Speaking about the significance of "the Jerusalem pilgrimage," he said it was a solemn occasion which turned the Moslems' attention to Jerusalem as their holy place and to what is happening in it in the light of the Zionists' leaders' statements that it will forever remain their unified capital. Abu Mazin also said that next Saturday he will go to Amman as part of a high-level Palestinian delegation in response to an invitation by the Jordanian Government in order to begin a serious dialog between the two sides and to solve outstanding problems.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the delegation will be headed by Khalid al-Fahum and will include Khalid al-Hasan and Zuhayr Muhsin in addition to Abu Mazin. The delegation will discuss several issues with Jordanian officials, including:
First, Palestinian activities in Jordan related to the national cause.
Second, certain outstanding problems and the pardoning of detainees.
Third, the issuing of Jordanian passports to Palestinians operating with the PLO.
Fourth, allowing those banned from entry to return to Jordan.
Fifth, joint coordination in mobilizing and supporting the masses in the occupied territory in order to oppose the self-rule plans.

ABU MAZIN INTERVIEWED BY AD-DUSTUR ON RELATIONS WITH JORDAN

JN2612100Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Nov 78 pp 1, 17 JN

[Article by Nabil 'Amru]

[Excerpts] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the Central Command of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, and member of the Palestinian delegation to the Jordanian-Palestinian discussions, has praised His Majesty King Husayn's stand toward current events in the Arab and international arenas in regard to the Palestine question.

In an exclusive statement to the AD-DUSTUR correspondent, 'Abbas said that the first premise for dialog with Jordan is our deep and genuine feeling and that of the brothers in Jordan of the common destiny and firm ties that have linked the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples for a long time in addition to a strong link for the future of the two fraternal peoples.

'Abbas said that the political stand and clear understanding which His Majesty King Husayn and brother Yasir 'Arafat demonstrated at the Baghdad summit conference created an urgent necessity to regain cohesion. Cohesion is also needed to face the danger threatening our people inside Palestine through the solutions posed which both of us have rejected. It is also the duty of the two sides to support the steadfastness of our people and entrench their existence in the occupied land in order to prevent Judaization of the land and legalization of the occupation and to escalate the Palestinian resistance against occupation.

'Abbas said that this background makes our rapprochement necessary. We do not think that any obstacles will arise in the dialog. The positive spirit with which we were received by His Majesty King Husayn and the official Jordanian delegation strengthened our hope that we will witness a bright future full of hopes. 'Abbas further said: I believe that establishment of strong, firm relations based on confidence and frankness between Jordan and the PLO will result in practical steps. [paragraph continues]

Such relations will be capable of foiling the solutions posed in the arena. We believe that the purpose of the Camp David conference and its addenda is not Sinai but our occupied land and our people under occupation.

In reply to a question on PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's statement to the New York TIMES in which he said that we accept UN emergency forces on the borders of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and what this statement means, Abu Mazin said that the PLO did not relinquish any of its slogans. When the PLO raised the slogan of a secular democratic state, it aimed to stress to the world and the Jews that we are not against them and want to live with them in a state that includes us all. We wanted to stress to them that we are against Zionism.

Abu Mazin said that the slogan of a Palestinian state represented in the 10 points of the political declaration of the 12th and 13th sessions of the Palestine National Council was raised to stabilize the Palestinian identity and to establish a Palestinian state and to achieve the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. But we will definitely continue our struggle to establish a secular democratic state. This is an explanation of brother Yasir 'Arafat's statement.

Concerning the PLO's agreement to the Baghdad summit document which provided for honoring international resolutions and whether this agreement entails PLO recognition of Resolution 242, Abu Mazin said that Resolution 242 has nothing to do with the Palestinian people because it spoke of them in terms of a group of refugees. This is clear in the first point of the 10 points endorsed by the Palestine National Council. This does not mean we are against international legitimacy, but that we support international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 3236 and 3237. Thus, when we speak of Resolution 242 we do not speak in terms of acceptance or rejection because originally it is not addressed to us. So how can we accept or reject it when it ignores us.

PALESTINIAN SOURCE DENIES REPORTED PALESTINIAN-PHALANGIST MEETING

JN241604Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 24 Nov 78 JN

[Text] A responsible information source of the Palestinian revolution has denied a Monte Carlo Radio broadcast at 1900 yesterday, claiming that a meeting was held between brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Amin al-Jumayyil, member of the Political Bureau of the Lebanese Phalangist Party.

The information source said that this news is completely untrue and aims at causing confusion and suspicion between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

ARAB LABOR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTERS SET UP FIVE-MEMBER COMMITTEE

JN281654Y Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA--Arab labour and social affairs ministers now in session here today decided setting up a five-member committee comprising social affairs ministers of Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, Morocco and Tunisia.

The committee will convene in Damascus within a period not exceeding three months and will in cooperation with the Arab League follow up implementation of the ministers' resolutions and recommendations and provisions of the Arab social action charter.

The committee will also study the possibility of establishing a ministerial council for Arab social affairs ministers to replace the ministers conference.

Iraq's Husayn Addresses Ministers

JN2813O4Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has declared that the resolutions of the Arab summit conference are a genuine Arab reaction.

He said that the success of the conference does not constitute prestige for any one party, but is an honor to all the sons of the Arab nation because they participated in making it succeed. Saddam Husayn said that the spirit of the Arab summit conference does not end in Baghdad but embraces the Arab world.

Saddam Husayn made these statements when he received the Arab labor and social affairs ministers here this afternoon. Saddam Husayn affirmed that through joint, pure and honest efforts to confront the enemy, we can provide opportunities for steadfastness in all domains of life.

He explained that the Arabs might differ on the definition of an enemy or adversary in politics or economics, but they do not differ when it comes to the definition of the enemy of sovereignty--the enemy of the land, the Zionist entity. He said this is the least we agree upon and it is sufficient to be the maximum.

Saddam Husayn emphasized that the Arab nation is capable of depending on itself without being a stooge to any foreigner, whether friend or adversary. He said that the sons of the Arab nation can use all their international friendships for the interest of their nation, and not otherwise. "Our basic principle is to uphold our rights not to harm others." He said that self-defense is a legitimate right in all divine and secular laws. "We must be cautious and vigilant and true brothers to one another, avoiding mistakes and working against wrongdoings."

Saddam Husayn said that all the sons of the Arab nation are involved in the process of construction and are doing good. He said they are capable of giving a great deal to their nation, any anyone "outside this framework can harm the nation whether through lack of involvement or when he channels his efforts in only one direction."

Saddam Husayn called for dealing with the facts of history to raise the morale of the sons of the Arab nation, to enable them to look at the future optimistically, and to embark on the sound path. He said that talk about history is only an attempt to resurrect the past in order to deal with the facts of the present and place the Arab labor nation in a better position.

It will be recalled that the Arab labor and social affairs ministers are currently attending the meetings of their 5th conference, which began here yesterday.

ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE MEETS IN AMMAN

JN281613Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 November--The industrial coordination committee of the Arab Economic Unity Council continued its meetings in Amman today.

'Abdallah al-Bukhari, member of the Jordanian side of the committee, said that the committee has formulated the bases and conditions for advanced coordination among the Arab states to establish industrial projects.

These bases include the commitment by the Arab states not to establish any industrial project similar to the ones already established in any Arab state except after a certain period of time. They also include granting this industry customs exemptions and facilities for its imports and exports, provided that these operations do not violate public security and the public policy of the Arab states.

The bases also provide for the right of the Arab state in which a particular industry is established to participate in its capital and to have priority in purchasing its products.

Al-Bukhari added that the committee also discussed the role of the industrial and agricultural complexes in solving the problems of food in the Arab homeland. He also stated that the committee asserted the need to establish an industrial-agricultural complex for agricultural mechanization.

JOINT ARAB INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT COMPANY FORMED IN BAGHDAD

JN221816Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 November--The establishment of the largest joint Arab company within the framework of the Arab Economic Unity Council was officially announced today. The company has a capital of 150 million Iraqi dinars.

The announcement of establishing the Arab company for industrial investments came after the representatives of the member Arab countries at the Constituent Assembly had signed the foundation contract in Baghdad at the end of the assembly's meetings here this evening.

It will be recalled that the members of the Constituent assembly are Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan. Iraq's contribution to the company's capital is 16 percent, Kuwait 8 percent; and Syria and Jordan 1 percent each.

ARAB NEWS AGENCIES' CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED FOR 24 DEC

JN281738Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 November--It has been decided to postpone the 7th conference of the Federation of the Arab News Agencies until 24 December 1978.

In a statement to INA, Dr Farid Ayyar, secretary general of the federation, said that the conference was scheduled to be held in Beirut on 12 December. However, most Arab news agencies requested its postponement, since on this date there are prescheduled Arab and international conferences and meetings.

The conference is expected to discuss several important issues including the drawing up of guidelines for relations with international news agencies that cooperate with the Zionist entity, and the question of establishing an Arab news pool to increase the flow of Arab news to Europe.

The conference will also discuss the questions to be raised in the Arab-European symposium of news agencies, which will be held in Austria next April, as well as guaranteeing the participation of all member news agencies in the symposium.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER: MILITARY INDUSTRIALIZATION TO REMAIN IN EGYPT

LD290917Y London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Nov 78 p 35 LD

[Salim Nassar dispatch: "Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Says: France's Role in Arab Organization for Industrialization Is Unconditional and Unlimited'"]

[Excerpts] "This was the shortest visit to France by an Arab official that has raised so many questions and aroused the largest amount of speculations."

With this phrase French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges summed up the talks Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz had with him and with President Giscard d'Estaing last week.

Amir Sultan has told us that his talks with President d'Estaing were fruitful and constructive and dealt with various bilateral issues and the Arab situation in general, including the situation in Lebanon.

The newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, in a long article by its correspondent Joseph Fitchett Thursday [16 November], said that France has been apprehensive regarding the program of the Arab organization for industrialization on the grounds that Egypt might withdraw from it if an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is concluded. If this happens, Egypt will no longer be in need of arms since its forces would be reduced to about one-third and the state of war removed.

We put these questions to Amir Sultan, questions which have been raised by the French press regarding France's role in cooperation in this field. Amir Sultan replied that France's role is unconditional and unlimited. He said that the French defense minister expressed his full confidence in the role of the organization for industrialization and affirmed that President Giscard d'Estaing's directives in this regard are without any reservations.

We asked the amir: Then there is no change whatsoever in the organization's program in relation to the French role in production or in other activities?

He said that the previous commitment to the plan is still valid, that the French Government has been informed accordingly and that its responsibilities are still the same.

With regard to moving the location of the Arab organization for industrialization from Egypt to any other Arab country if Egypt signs a peace treaty with Israel, the Amir, in his capacity as chairman of the board of the organization, said that the authority had taken no such decision and had not been informed of anything to the contrary. Therefore Egypt is still considered the scheduled location for military industrialization and production.

Explaining the purposes of such industrialization, Amir Sultan said that there are economic and technical advantages in addition to national advantages. We will be able to produce arms which we believe will be necessary to strengthen and consolidate the Arab stand. We will achieve such objectives through gaining the know-how which we need in order to create a new industrial generation that will move into the industrial age, a generation capable of creating a developed society that in the future would lessen reliance on other countries, West or East.

Moreover, Amir Sultan added, Egypt will be capable of providing no less than 12,000 technicians and skilled workers for this purpose.

Continuing, he added: We must not lose sight of the fact that such arms will be available to the whole Arab world and that they will be manufactured and produced in accordance with the needs of the Arab countries as a result of which they will be immune to any blackmail by certain foreign powers which use arms sales as a political means for the achievement of specific objectives.

We said: Therefore, it is not intended to move the location of military industrialization out of Egypt.

He replied in the negative, saying that this is a political decision which it is up to Egypt to take. However, he added, we have studied all possibilities and probabilities.

KING KHALID RETURNS FROM CONVALESCENCE IN GENEVA

LD271802Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1602 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Nov 78, SNA--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz returned to Riyadh at 1845 this evening from Geneva where he was convalescing after successful surgery in the United States.

Leading those who came to welcome his majesty at the airport were Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; princes, ministers, civilian and military senior officials and citizens. The king was also welcomed by Shaykh ibn Khalifah Hamad Al Thani, Qatari crown prince and defense minister.

AMIR OF KUWAIT DEPARTS FOLLOWING SHORT VISIT

LD281234Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh--His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, left Riyadh for home at 1400 today following a short visit to the kingdom.

KING KHALID WELCOMES UAE PRESIDENT ON ARRIVAL

LD291152Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh--His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, head of the UAE, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived in Riyadh today at 1230. King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at Riyadh airport to welcome his highness the shaykh, head of the UAE, on his arrival.

YEMEN--PDRY

PDRY'S ISMA'IL CLAIMS 8,000 IMPRISONED IN NORTH YEMEN

LD251546Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party today sent a message to the Arab peoples congress, meeting in Damascus.

'Abd al-Fattah expressed the solidarity of the PDRY party and people with the Arab struggle for freedom. "In his message to the Arab peoples congress the Yemeni Socialist Party secretary general said that the congress session is being held at a time when the world is witnessing an escalation of the struggle of our people in the northern part of the Yemeni homeland for the protection of their freedom, independence and national sovereignty, which has been neglected by the San'a' rulers. The San'a' regime has created a base for hostile foreign imperialist influence on Yemeni territory and has concluded suspect agreements with U.S. imperialism for the establishment of military bases, in order to sabotage peace and stability in our region and threaten the freedom and gains of our Yemeni people in particular and all Arab peoples in general.

"He added: The people in the northern part of the homeland are facing inhuman campaigns of repression, terror, hangings and bloodbaths, as well as unprecedented capricious detentions. The prisons are full to overflowing with over 8,000 prisoners who include workers, peasants, youths, students and women.

"In this connection, the secretary general called upon the congress to condemn these inhuman repressive campaigns and to support the struggle of our people in the northern part of the homeland under the leadership of the Democratic National Front for the sake of freedom and the liquidation of foreign imperialist influence and for the sake of the right of our people to defend the Yemeni revolution and achieve Yemeni unity."

YEMEN--YAR

EGYPT REPORTEDLY PROPOSES PLACING TROOPS ON YAR BORDER WITH PDRY

LD281701Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Nov 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Sources of the National Democratic Front in North Yemen said that battles are raging in Al-Wazi'iyah area between the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces and the people on the one hand and San'a' Government forces on the other. The people's forces inflicted heavy losses on the government forces, including the death of 20 soldiers and the destruction of 5 pieces of light and medium weaponry.

These battles broke out when the San'a' authorities attacked villagers in Al-Wazi'iyah last Sunday. This prompted the People's Armed Revolutionary Forces to retaliate with force on different fronts.

On the other hand the Lebanese daily AL-LIWA', quoting a well-informed Arab source in Beirut, said that Egypt has proposed sending forces to North Yemen in order to take positions on the borders with South Yemen.

An acute dispute has broken out between the two countries since the assassination of YAR President Ahmad al-Ghashmi.

The source recalled that Egypt sent forces to North Yemen in 1962 following the toppling of the imam's regime.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON ASSESSMENT OF PEACE TALKS

NC290620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 November--In its Wednesday edition, AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt has affirmed the following principles in the comprehensive assessment which it has prepared over a period of a week and in which members of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington talks have taken part:

1. Egypt's concern to resume the talks within the framework of achieving a comprehensive and complete peace in the Middle East in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements;

2. Introducing amendments to the proposed Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty, particularly to Article 6 of the treaty. This is in order to affirm Egypt's adherence to the collective Arab security pact and its precedence, as peace has not yet been achieved between Israel and all its Arab neighbors;

3. Affirming the importance of linking the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement with a solution of the Palestine problem and introducing a timetable for holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, establishing full autonomy and the autonomous institutions and abolishing the military government as soon as these institutions are established and the Israeli forces are withdrawn to fixed positions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that Egypt has prepared a new draft containing a clear and revised formula of the letters which the parties can exchange to insure a link between the peace treaty and a solution of the Palestine problem. The Egyptian formula regards the U.S. proposal as an acceptable basis for negotiations and puts the following timetable for the establishment of the autonomous institutions:

1. Negotiations on the constitutional procedures for the establishment of the autonomous institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will start 1 month after the Egyptian-Israeli agreement is signed;

2. Elections will be held before the end of 1979 and the autonomous institutions will be established;

3. The establishment of institutions, the abolition of the military government, the transfer of power and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces to fixed positions.

AL-AHRAM also reports that Egypt has proposed that the letters to be exchanged should complement the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and should be signed on the same day the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement is signed and will have the same binding power as that of the treaty.

President Carter and President as-Sadat's envoy, Dr Mustafa Khalil, are expected to discuss how the talks can be resumed and real peace achieved in the light of explanations and views expressed by the Egyptian envoy, and President Carter's view of them.

AL-AHRAM reports that during his tour, which will cover six European capitals, Dr Mustafa Khalil will explain Egypt's attitude, its insistence on achieving peace, its adherence to the Palestinian cause and the obstacles Israel is placing in the path of the establishment of a real peace in the area.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM ON PALESTINE DAY

NC281848Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1651 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 November--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has announced that the UN celebration of the day for solidarity with the Palestinian people is a reaffirmation of the international community's commitment to the noble principles on which the UN Charter is based. This celebration is also an expression of the belief in the need to establish an international system based on justice, equality and respect for the peoples' rights.

President as-Sadat said that at Camp David, Egypt succeeded in building the framework which will open the road for the Palestinian people to recover their rights and establish their national authority in their land.

President as-Sadat affirmed that at the Washington discussions, work is underway to translate this framework into tangible steps on the path of achievement of the aspirations of the Arab nation, headed by the Palestinian people.

The above statements are contained in the message which President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent to the UN secretary general on the occasion of the UN's celebration tomorrow, Wednesday, of the day for solidarity with the Palestinian people. President as-Sadat's message will be read to the UN General Assembly by Egyptian UN Chief Delegate Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

The following is the text of the message sent by President as-Sadat on the occasion of the observance of the day for solidarity with the Palestinian people:

The UN observance of the day for solidarity with the Palestinian people is a reaffirmation of the international community's commitment to the noble principles on which the UN Charter is based, and an expression of the belief in the need to establish an international system based on justice, equality and respect for the people's rights.

Throughout their noble history, the fraternal Palestinian people have been subjected to attempts to oblierate their national identity. Even worse, these attempts have gone as far as denying their existence materially and morally. Apart from running counter to the most rudimentary principles of legitimacy, justice and equality, these attempts have figured as the principal reason for the unique human tragedy to which our area has been exposed. This tragedy has exposed all the peoples of the area to numerous years of tension, war and destruction. During these years, our area has squandered manpower and material resources which should have been channeled toward achieving development, happiness and prosperity.

Throughout this period, supported by all the Arab peoples and by all the peace-loving states and peoples inside and outside the United Nations, Egypt has advocated the need for the Palestinian people to gain their national rights so that it would become possible to achieve a just and lasting peace which would preserve for all the peoples of the area their right to live securely and safely within their homelands without threats or acts of aggression.

Egypt's belief in these noble principles and its commitment to this noble objective have imposed political and military confrontations with Israel on Egypt.

The latest military confrontation of October--Ramadan--made it clear beyond any doubt that achieving peace in the Middle East must rest on the basis of legitimacy and international justice on recognizing the Palestinian issue as the core and essence of the conflict, and on admitting the fact that the Palestinian people's recovery of their legitimate national rights is the solid foundation for the establishment of a lasting and just peace.

Then followed the peace initiative, which was supported by all the peoples of the world. This initiative emphasized the meanings and lessons of the October War and emphatically showed that the Egyptian people are determined to continue assuming their national and pan-Arab responsibilities and to march with confident and firm steps on the path of the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

In this respect, you are celebrating while Egypt is bearing, as it has always borne, the brunt of what is definitively the most difficult battle. By this battle I mean the battle being waged to build the edifice of peace for the peoples of our area on the basis of justice, international law and respect for the peoples' right to determine their own fate.

At Camp David, Egypt has successfully built the framework which, while it will lead to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, will open the road for the Palestinian people so that they will recover their rights and establish their national authority in their land. Furthermore, at the discussions underway in Washington, we are seeking to translate this framework into tangible steps on the path of the achievement of the aspirations of the Arab nation, headed by the Palestinian people.

This noble and honorable battle requires all parties to make creative efforts and to demonstrate perspicacity and extreme courage. Furthermore, this battle requires the international community to continue standing strongly on the side of righteousness and justice, just as the international community has always done in the various UN organs, at the OAU meetings and at the nonalined states' conferences.

On this occasion, I take pleasure in expressing appreciation for the constructive role being performed by the UN committee on Palestinian rights. This committee is playing its role in order to assist the Palestinian people in the international arena, particularly at the United Nations, which bears special responsibility for preserving the rights of the peoples.

The Egyptian people will remain loyal to their destiny and responsibilities. They will remain strong through their confidence in God, in themselves and in the just Arab cause. The Egyptian people will remain determined to seriously seek to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in such a way that the rights of the peoples of this area will be preserved. These peoples are headed by the Palestinian people. We look forward to the day when this people will enjoy freedom in their homeland so that their creative potentials will be released for the sake of contributing constructively to mankind's march toward development, advancement, happiness and prosperity.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY FORMS VALUES COMMITTEE

NC281938Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpt] The secretariat general of the National Democratic Party held a meeting at noon today under the chairmanship of the party secretary general, Deputy Prime Minister Fikri Makram 'Ubayd.

Officer in charge of party information Mansur Hasan has stated that on instructions from the party leader, the secretariat general decided to form a party values committee. The committee includes Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, Muhammad Kamil al-'Uqayli, Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir, Mansur Hasan and Kamal ash-Shadhili.

The task of the committee is to monitor the ethical, social and political behavior of the members, especially those who assume leading positions in either the party or the government.

The committee will draw up the ethics charter and the rules and procedures to be followed in investigations. These rules and procedures will be announced to insure that they are applied and so that the primary and most important party duties will be achieved; namely, that the party member set a good example in his post and an exemplary model in his behavior so that the values of ethics, loyalty and discipline will prevail in society.

The committee will begin its work immediately.

ECONOMIC GROUP, IMF DELEGATION DISCUSS EGYPTIAN ECONOMY

NC281606Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] The economic group that includes the ministers of economy, foreign trade planning and finance; the minister of state for economic cooperation; and the governor of the Egyptian Central Bank held a meeting today with the IMF delegation led by IMF Middle East Operations Director Dr 'Abd ash-Shakur Sha'lan. During the meeting, a review was made of the economic and financial measures which the Egyptian Government plans to adopt during the next fiscal year.

The meeting was held within the framework of the annual consultations between Egypt and the IMF and their review of developments in the Egyptian economy since Egypt signed an agreement with the IMF last July.

Earlier, the minister of finance held a separate meeting with the IMF delegation. The discussions during the meeting dealt with financial developments in Egypt and with the possibility of making use of the IMF experts' studies in the development of the state general budget structure to rectify the budget deficit, reduce public spending and guide consumption, in addition to making use of the facilities extended by the IMF to develop the Egyptian taxation and customs sectors.

GHALI BRIEFS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ON PEACE TALKS

NC281355Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1343 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 November--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with Belgian Ambassador to Egypt Rene Panis this afternoon. Dr Ghali briefed the ambassador on the latest developments in the negotiations for the implementation of the Camp David agreements and the drafting of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the problem.

The ambassador is scheduled to leave Cairo for Brussels early next week to present a report to Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet on his meeting with the Egyptian officials and on Egypt's position in the peace negotiations.

CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER LEAVES BAGHDAD AT END OF VISIT

JN290749Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 November--Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 4-day visit.

An official sendoff was accorded the Czechoslovak premier by Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; RCC members; senior Iraqi officials; and heads of the diplomatic missions of socialist countries accredited to Iraq.

The Czechoslovak premier had met with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and reviewed with him bilateral relations and the means to develop them in various spheres. They also discussed Arab and international issues of mutual interest. Strougal held talks with Saddam Husayn on strengthening bilateral relations as well as on several Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

Czechoslovak Finance Minister Leopold Ler and Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Andrej Barcak also held talks with Iraqi Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali, Planning Minister 'Adnan Husayn and Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi on strengthening bilateral relations.

The Czechoslovak premier described his talks in Iraq as cordial and frank.

In a press statement last evening, Premier Strougal said that the talks dealt with strengthening economic cooperation between Iraq and Czechoslovakia and coordinating their joint efforts in the international field.

Strougal stressed that economic relations between the two countries will witness important developments, particularly regarding trade, the implemention of new development projects and the exchange of expertise.

Strougal also pointed to the importance of the development of relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party in the service of the two parties and peoples.

Oil Refinery Agreement

JN281552Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--Iraq and Czechoslovakia signed a contract here today to establish the first phase of an oil refinery in northern Iraq at an annual capacity of 3.5 million tons of crude oil in Bay Hasan field.

The contract was signed for Iraq by Revolution Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, and for the Czechoslovak side by Foreign Trade Minister Andrej Barcak, who is currently visiting Iraq. The refinery will produce special-grade petroleum, hydrogenated oil byproducts, white oil, gas oil, aircraft fuel oil, diesel oil, and black oil.

The Czechoslovak corporation Technoexport will construct the refinery in 29 months. Meanwhile, the Iraqi general corporation for the refining of oil and the liquefaction of gas will supervise the implementation of the project and then operate it.

The general corporation for construction and contracting will implement the civil engineering works in cooperation with the general corporation for the refining of oil and the liquefaction of gas.

Furthermore, the Iraqi Oil Ministry is currently preparing the basic designs to implement the second phase of the oil refinery in northern Iraq at an annual capacity of 7.5 million tons.

VISITING PRC OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL

JN281354Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--Chi P'eng-fei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, made a statement to the press on his arrival here today. He expressed his pleasure at visiting Iraq. He said: I will take this opportunity to convey to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the Iraqi Government and people the greetings of the leaders, government and people of the PRC.

Chi P'eng-fei said that the relations of cordial cooperation between our two countries have witnessed important developments in harmony with the basic interests of the two peoples.

Chi P'eng-fei said that the friendship existing between Iraq and the PRC is a sincere friendship "that withstands the test of time."

Chi P'eng-fei said that the visit will substantially contribute to the consolidation of understanding and friendship between the two countries and will expedite the development of the relations of cordial cooperation between them.

Meets Al-Bakr

JN290940Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 November--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received here this morning Chi Peng-fei, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed relations between Iraq and the PRC, the means to developing these relations, and Arab and international issues.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, PRC Assistant Foreign Minister Sung Chih-kuang and the PRC ambassador in Baghdad.

OIL MINISTER CALLS FOR RAISING OIL PRICES

JN281729Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--Revoultion Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim has declared that Iraq refuses to freeze oil prices or to introduce only a token increase.

'Abd al-Karim said Iraq calls for a fair and reasonable increase in oil prices, taking into consideration the interest of the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries and the continued drop in the value of the dollar.

'Abd al-Karim said Iraq is calling for using a calculating unit other than the dollar to avoid continuous losses from the drop of the value of the dollar. He said Iraq is also calling for programming oil production by creating a balance between supply and demand, because oil is an effective weapon in changing the structure of the world economy.

'Abd al-Karim made these statements in a lecture at the pharmacy school at the University of Baghdad.

'Abd al-Karim asserted that oil will soon flow through pipelines to the Syrian port of Baniyas.

'Abd al-Karim said that the national action charter between Iraq and Syria is a historic turning point in the interest of the Arab struggle movement and in the direction of achieving pan-Arab goals, wresting the just rights of the Arab people, and foiling the conspiratorial designs against our central issue, Palestine.

'Abd al-Karim emphasized that Iraq's oil policy is based on using oil revenues for economic development, merging the sectors of oil and oil industries in the national economy, and using oil as a weapon against imperialism and Zionism and as a means to achieve a unified, democratic and socialist Arab society.

'Abd al-Karim said that after the 17 July 1968 revolution, Iraq achieved its national goals by establishing an advanced oil industry free from foreign monopolies and by fully liberating oil wealth through nationalization and direct investment of oil and mineral resources.

NA'IM HADDAD RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN281912Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--Na'im Haddad, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the permanent secretariat of the Arab Popular Conference, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad this evening after participating in the meetings of the conference's permanent secretariat and the works of the Arab Popular Conference, which concluded its meetings in Damascus yesterday.

In a statement to the press Comrade Haddad said that the masses of the Arab people represented in their patriotic and progressive forces, and vocational and popular organizations declared in their conference their support of the Joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Syria, and considered this charter as the strategic pillar to confront the Zionist enemy and imperialism.

Haddad added: The Arab nation has asserted its decisive rejection of the two humiliating and shameful Camp David agreements as well as its determination to continue the struggle and to place its resources in the service of the pan-Arab battle against imperialism and Zionism.

Haddad continued: In their unionist steps, Iraq and Syria are expressing the conscience of the Arab nation. The balance in the Arab-Zionist dispute has begun to change in favor of our Arab nation.

Speaking about the resolutions and recommendations of the Arab Popular Conference, Haddad emphasized that the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party effectively participated alongside the fraternal delegation in preparing the working paper that was submitted to the conference by the drafting committees.

Haddad pointed out that the discussions of the conference affirmed the eagerness of all the representatives of the Arab patriotic and progressive forces, parties and organizations to reach a popular struggle program to cope with the big conspiracy against our nation and its existence and to liberate the occupied Arab areas.

Haddad said that the conference has considered As-Sadat a violater of the will of the Arab nation and called for struggle alongside the nationalist movement of the Egyptian Arab people to bring back Egypt to the Arab ranks.

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIFIED MOVEMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES

JN281533Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 November--A delegation from the South African Unified Movement led by its chairman (Tabata) arrived here this morning on a visit to Iraq of several days at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

TALKS WITH PLO DELEGATION CONCLUDE, STATEMENT ISSUED

JN2818Z2Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at the Hashemite Court this afternoon with the PLO delegation under Khalid al-Fahum. During this meeting, they reviewed the aspects of fraternal cooperation between the Jordanian Government and the PLO in light of the dialog that recently took place between the two sides. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharif and Minister of the Royal Court 'Amir Khammash.

This evening at the end of the talks, the following press statement was issued:

The Jordanian side under Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Palestinian side under Chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC] Khalid al-Fahum, held the final session of their talks at the prime minister's office this afternoon. The talks took place within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog that was resumed on 25 November 1978.

According to the two sides' realization of the seriousness of the stage through which the Palestinian cause is passing; of the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation on the groundwork of Arab struggle in the face of Israeli aggression, its expansionist schemes, and the achievement of a just peace that insures Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's restoration of their national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state over their national soil; the two sides arrived at the principles of joint cooperation in the fields of political and information action as well as support for the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied territories in accordance with the resolutions of the Rabat and Baghdad summit conference.

During the talks, which were held in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, a comprehensive review was made of the development of the Palestinian issue, and an objective and practical evaluation was made of the nature of the stage it is undergoing in both its Arab and international frameworks. Special emphasis was also placed on the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and ways and means to support them in their solid steadfastness before the enemy schemes and arbitrary measures. Emphasis was also placed on ways to consolidate their splendid national unity, which has been and still is expressed in confronting the enemy plans to dissolve their national and cultural character.

Out of the two sides' eagerness for the safety and efficiency of joint cooperation, and guided by the experiences and lessons of the past, the two sides agreed to stress a number of principles, considering them the fence that guarantees the protection of this cooperation and its development, foremost of which is the complete awareness and respect of the principle of the state's sovereignty over its territories and people, whose individuals are equal before the law, as well as the independence of the Palestinian action within the framework of the PLO, which is considered the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Jordanian Government and the PLO, while at the beginning of this stage of conscious and practical cooperation in service of the Palestinian cause and its people, express their appreciation for the struggle and steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and assert their rejection of the Camp David agreements and their results. They also stress their determination to confront the self-rule plan, which entrenches the occupation.

Participating in the talks on the Jordanian side were Dr 'Abd as-Salam al-Majali, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman 'Arar, minister of interior; and Shawkat Mahmud, director of the Executive Office for the Affairs of the Occupied Territories.

On the Palestinian side the talks were attended by Zuhayr Muhsin, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Khalid al-Hasan, and Mahmud 'Abbas, members of the PLO Central Council.

Delegation Departs Al-Fahum Comments

JN282124Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The PLO delegation this evening left Amman for Damascus at the end of a 4-day visit to Jordan. Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the delegation, told the JNA correspondent that the delegation's visit was successful and led to positive results in view of the guidance of His Majesty King Husayn. We are confident that Jordan and the PLO are moving ahead on the path of struggle against the ferocious Zionist onslaught and in order t foil the plot of the autonomy, the aim of which is to consolidate occupation and und mine the constant national right of the Palestinian Arab people to their lands and homeland.

Al-Fahum added: Jordan is a noble Arab country holding out on the longest line of confrontation and is, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, a strong barrier in the face of Israeli expansion and the forces hostile to the goals of our nation in freedom and liberation. I take this opportunity to greatly thank Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the brother ministers for the warm welcome and reception accorded to us. I affirm that the strong cooperation between Jordan and the PLO to eliminate the occupation and repulse the plots of the occupiers will continue and be strengthened.

Answering a question by JNA, Al-Fahum said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan soon to meet with his kinsmen and brothers.

The delegation was seen off at the Ar-Ramtha border point by Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar and several officials.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES ARMY GRADUATION CEREMONY

JN291400Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The graduation ceremony of the officers of the 16th course took place today at the Royal Military College under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn.

His majesty addressed the graduates and said: Our major pan-Arab question is now facing a serious and difficult crossroads which it has rarely encountered before. All of us in Jordan must be at the peak of awareness and vigilance and use reason and good judgment so as to remain a strong asset for our nation, urging it toward solidarity and unified positive action. We must act to build intrinsic Arab forces to regain the Arab rights and occupied land which we will not relinquish no matter how long the path and how great sacrifices are until our full rights are regained and the just peace we are seeking established.

His majesty further said: The whole world now knows that we have never deviated from the path we charted for ourselves or lessened our principles or pride.

The whole world knows that we have never relinquished a pan-Arab task or been afraid to express the stand which we believe to be in the interests of our people and nation. This has been the case no matter how great the force facing us.

King Husayn said: Our brothers in the Arab homeland now know us well and deal with us on this basis. The world now understands us and respects our stand even if it differs with us. We will continue to pursue this course as long as Jordan exists, because this course stems from self-confidence and faith in our heritage and mission. Our brave army is the substance of this faith and the heart of this heritage.

His majesty called on the graduates to shoulder their practical responsibilities in their new positions. He also called on them to continue to gain knowledge and to arm themselves with culture and training to enable their bodies and minds to proceed toward higher standards.

His Majesty King Husayn reminded the graduates that they will join an armed forces whose preparedness and training, discipline and morale are of the highest standards. He expressed his confidence that they will be in the vanguard in the field of defending their homeland and their nation's pride, prestige and civilization.

His Majesty King Husayn continued by saying: Since their establishment, our armed forces have always set the most splendid examples in bravery, sacrifice, competence and loyalty. These forces are working to achieve the ambitions of our beloved Jordanian people and great Arab nation. The great Arab revolution--the basis of the modern Arab struggle--was launched to achieve these ambitions and aspirations. He said: Our Jordanian Arab Armed Forces have upheld this mission with deep faith and genuine determination, and have offered many martyrs in defense of Arab soil and heritage against hostile invasions whatever the source. These forces are an example of bravery, boldness, determination and high morals. With these forces Jordan has become dignified and a base for pan-Arab faith and the Arab struggle.

The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Nur, the prime minister and defense minister, the Senate president, the president of the National Consultative Council, his excellency the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court ministers, the chief chamberlain, his excellency the commander in chief of the armed forces, and ministers. Also attending the ceremony were senators, members of the National Consultative Council, a number of senior state officials and army officers, the parents of the graduates, heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, military attaches, and the Libyan military delegation currently visiting Jordan.

It is worth noting that the graduates included a number of the sons of the fraternal Arab countries of Bahrain, Qatar, Mauritania and the YAR.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE APPROVES DEFENSE BILL DRAFT

NC281805Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Today, Speaker al-As'ad chaired a joint meeting of the parliamentary committees for administration and justice and national defense, attended by the committee chairmen, Deputy Nadhim al-Qadiri and Deputy Fu'ad Lahud, and the deputies who are members of the committees. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new national defense bill draft.

After the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad made the following statement:

[Al-As'ad--begin recording] During this meeting, the joint committee approved all the principal points of the defense bill draft. The discussions dealt comprehensively with all points, particularly the appointment of the chief of staff and his deputies. Upon the conclusion of the discussions, a committee was formed. Its task will be to formulate a final and integrated draft. This committee has been given 1 week to do this, that is, the period expires next Tuesday, after which the committee will submit the final version of the draft. The joint committee is scheduled to meet again next Thrusday in order to complete the final draft in preparation for submitting it to the whole parliament. That is, this committee will confine itself solely to formulating [the draft]--a fact which we wish to affirm once again in the presence of some committee members--because the important and principal points which were the subject of differences of opinion have been entirely surmounted. [end recording]

LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT IN FRANCE ISSUES STATEMENT

JN281514Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 28 November--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement in France has reaffirmed its adherence to its determination to stop bloodshed in Lebanon and to avert the tragedies of ordeals and destruction so that it might perform its pan-Arab role within its natural Arab environment. In a statement issued here today on the occasion of the visit of Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis to France, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement called for supporting the legitimate authority representing all Lebanon, rebuilding the one undivided Lebanon, and allowing for democratic secular change in the country. The statement explains that arming and equipping the Lebanese Army to enable it to perform its role in protecting the homeland and in confronting the ambitions of the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon is a basic demand for which the Lebanese nationalist movement requested and struggled.

INA REPORTS PLANS FOR MILITARY AIRPORT IN S. LEBANON

JN281518Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 November--The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon, citing travelers from Marj 'Uyun, reports that wide-scale activity is currently taking place to repair the British-built airfield 60 km from the area. The travelers said that helicopters are actively transporting experts and engineers to the airfield to reopen it in order to facilitate the movement of the rightwing militia and supply them with ammunition and foodstuffs. The airfield had been used as a British Air Force base during World War II.

SARKIS, GISCARD D'ESTAING HOLD TALKS IN PARIS

For French and Lebanese reportage on the official visit of President Ilyas Sarkis to France, see the France section of the 29 November Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

FORMER LEBANESE PRESIDENT CRITICIZES FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

NC271551Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un criticized the French foreign minister's repeated statements on the Lebanese situation. Mr Sham'un also affirmed his appreciation of the French people's attitude and the attitude of its parties and newspaper.

President Sham'un noted that France's attitude is motivated by its oil interests--even if these interests call for the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

President Sham'un believes that, in view of Foreign Minister de Guiringaud's well-known statements, President Sarkis' visit to France will not achieve anything. President Sham'un affirmed his opposition to partition, adding: For the sake of maintaining Lebanon's unity, a federal system must be established.

PHALANGISTS REPORTEDLY ISSUE FORGED PASSPORTS

JN281815Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Press reports in Beirut today revealed that the rightist Phalangist Party has forged a large number of passports to facilitate the movement of foreign mercenaries fighting alongside its fighters.

The newspaper AL-LIWA' reports that forged Lebanese passports have recently been confiscated in Beirut airport. Phalangist gunmen had broken into security department offices in eastern Beirut and seized a number of passports, which they supplied to mercenaries collaborating with them to enable them to leave the country legally.

DETERRENT FORCES SEARCHING FOR ISRAELI SPIES IN BEIRUT

NC291010Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0928 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 29 November--In a dispatch from Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reports today that the Arab Deterrent Forces are looking for about 20 Israeli spies and agents who have infiltrated the western area of Beirut and some areas in the mountains.

According to initial information available to the Arab Deterrent Forces, these spies, who are carrying forged Lebanese passports, will try to assassinate some Palestinian personalities and plant bombs in densely populated areas.

Meanwhile, the newspaper reports that the recent attempt to assassinate Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, was made by means of a remote control device similar to the one which detonated an explosive charge near a Syrian military truck in Bhamdun recently.

GOVERNMENT DECREE BANS TRADE WITH EGYPT

JN280859Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 November--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH reports today that the minister of economy and foreign trade has issued a decree stopping the export and import of goods to and from Egypt.

The decree excludes those goods already being shipped and for which import licenses have been granted or credits opened, and those goods ready for shipment for which customs documents were completed before the decree was issued.

The newspaper explains that this decision is in implementation of the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad.

OFFICIAL CRITICIZES HOLDING ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS IN CAIRO

JN281420Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 November--Nasir Qaddur, the assistant to the foreign minister, has reaffirmed that the convocation of the Arab League Council in Cairo on 18 November is considered as an illegitimate and illegal violation of the Arab League Charter as well as violation of the Arab summit conference resolutions, particularly since this meeting did not represent the viewpoints of the Arab countries that participated in the Baghdad ninth Arab summit and that rejected the Camp David agreements.

Qaddur, in an interview with the Syrian daily ATH-THAWRAH that was published today, urged all Arab countries to stop attending any Arab League meetings in Cairo.

He emphasized that the Arab governments can take firm stands in this regard by informing Arab League offices in the different Arab capitals or by requesting heads of the Arab delegations to avoid attending any of those meetings.

Qaddur wondered what the reasons were that made Mahmud Riyad, Arab League secretary general, chair the 18 November meeting. Qaddur said: We know that Mahmud Riyad actively participated in the Baghdad ninth Arab summit. However, Riyad has changed his stand since he went back to Cairo, either because he was subjected to pressure by authorities of the Egyptian regime or because of his political inconstancy.

The Syrian assistant foreign minister expressed hope that such an action would not be repeated, because the Egyptian Arab people will further increase the means of struggle and confrontation of the capitulatory scheme.

Nasir Qaddur concluded by stressing the need for all Arab countries to adhere to the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions providing for suspending Arab League meetings in Cairo because of the Egyptian regime's resistence in its treacherous and capitulatory scheme.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES IRAQI RCC MEMBER NA'IM HADDAD

JN281417Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 November--President Hafiz al-Asad today at 1300 received Na'im Haddad, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Arab Popular Conference, which was recently held in Damascus.

Among those attending the meeting were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Comrade Yusif al-As'ad, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab Popular Conference.

Talks were held on the results and resolutions of the Arab Popular Conference and on implementation of the Syrian-Iraqi National Charter for Joint Action.

PRIME MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO IRAQI, SYRIAN PAPERS

JN281241Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 November--Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi has stressed that the National Charter for Joint Action between Iraq and Syria, along with the new development it has created and the fact that this charter has strengthened the front of steadfastness and confrontation in the face of the conspiracies being concocted against the whole Arab nation, constitutes the sound foundation of the road to unity of action between the two countries.

In an interview with the Iraqi newspaper ATH-THAWRAH press team that was published in the Iraqi and Syrian ATH-THAWRAH newspapers today, Al-Halabi said that the reactions of the front hostile to the Arab nation are no longer a secret in the wake of the issuance of the charter, which has reversed all the plans this hostile front was preparing for the area with the help of the Egyptian regime, the tool of imperialism and Zionism. Al-Halabi added that Syria will submit proposals and studies, through the appropriate committees, to be studied and approved by the Higher Political Committee.

In reply to a question on the continuity of this unionist step with fraternal Iraq, Al-Halabi said that it is necessary and important to learn and benefit from past experience. We are requested to formulate implementation programs capable of translating the charter into an event that reflects the true feelings of the masses and their real interests.

Al-Halabi stressed the necessity of implementing the slogan which says that what Syria lacks will be supplemented by Iraq and vice versa, to make the two countries complement each other.

Al-Halabi stressed the necessity for coordination at all steps and said that any unity action is always exposed to conspiracies, setbacks and intrigues. Therefore, coordination should be among the first major steps to be adopted by the two countries. All plans should be well studied and take into consideration the situation of the two countries to avoid the emergence of any contradictions on economic issues.

Al-Halabi added that the two countries have left behind all the effects of estrangement among the leaders and the two peoples and that we should work to remove existing obstacles. Al-Halabi asked that no commodities be imported if they are available in the other country.

He also urged stimulation of travel and contacts among popular organizations and vocational groups in the two countries. He also called for linking the two countries with a road and railway network and with a telecommunications network using a coaxial cable.

Al-Halabi added that any decision adopted by the committees will be immediately implemented, because we have the necessary instructions from the president and we are prepared for any steps or measures.

On the role of the information agencies at this stage, Al-Halabi said that information agencies are capable of playing an important and characteristic role and should shoulder momentous responsibilities to translate into facts the results reached by the political commands, because the written word must be committed and responsible.

Concluding his statement to the ATH-THAWRAH newspapers in Iraq and Syria, the prime minister called on all the information men in the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq, to work for quick and comprehensive cooperation, because the information agencies are the direct media to stimulate reactions among the masses.

PAPER CLAIMS AL-ASAD TO VISIT USSR IN JANUARY

TA271300Y Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 27 Nov 78 TA

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov. 27 (AFP)--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Moscow in January, the Lebanese left-wing weekly AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI reported today.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI, quoting informed sources in the Syrian capital Damascus today, said President al-Asad in Moscow would discuss ways of adjusting the military imbalance in the Middle East following Egyptian disengagement with Israel.

AL-ASAD TO VISIT HUNGARY 29 NOVEMBER

JN260637Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] At the invitation of Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Pal Losonczi, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, will make an official and friendly visit to the Hungarian People's Republic beginning on 29 November 1978.

SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN281452Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 November--Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, this morning received the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. The ambassador extended an invitation addressed to speaker Mahmud Hadid to visit the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation from the People's Assembly.

Speaker Hadid and the Soviet ambassador also reviewed the strong relations tying Syria with the Soviet Union.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE'S CONDITION WORSENS, FALLS INTO 'DEEP COMA'

TA281508Y Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Algerian President Houari Boumediene's condition worsened again today when he fell into a deep coma, reliable sources said.

The sources said that since last night, he has not reacted to any stimulation.

Next 48 Hours 'Decisive'

TA281617Y Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Algiers, Nov 28 (AFP)--The next 48 hours will be "decisive" for the Algerian president, the sources added.

There was now no response from the president's neurological system either to commands or to stimulation, it was said. On Sunday it was reported that President Boumediene had partly emerged from his deep coma and was responding to verbal requests such as "open your eyes."

Several serious alerts were registered in the president's condition overnight and this morning there was no change, the sources continued.

(In Stockholm today, Swedish professor Jan Goesta Waldenstrom, who had visited the president, said it was "difficult to say whether he can survive." Professor Waldenstrom confirmed the president was suffering from Waldenstrom's Disease which affects the blood, which the professor discovered.)

The international team of doctors treating President Boumediene was today attempting to localize the blood clot in his brain in order to try to dissolve it. They are using the most up-to-date equipment available, including a mobile scanning unit flown here from the United States yesterday.

Swedish Doctor Reports

TA281202Y Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Stockholm, Nov 28 (AFP)--Algerian President Houari Boumediene is unlikely ever to resume his head of state's duties and it is "difficult to say whether he can survive" his recent illness, Swedish Professor Jan Goesta Waldenstrom said on return from Algiers today.

Before leaving Algiers, the professor was reported to have confirmed that President Boumediene was suffering from the disease which bears the professor's name.

Prof Waldenstrom said on arrival here that he had "not been able to do much" during his 3 days in Algiers.

But he said he had agreed with doctors treating the president that an operation to remove an 11-day-old blood clot from the president's brain would be too dangerous. "He would certainly not have survived," the professor said.

"There were a few signs of improvement but his condition remains very serious and it is difficult to say whether he can survive," the Swedish doctor said.

Reliable sources in Algiers quoted Prof Waldenstrom as saying the president had a "malignant" form of Waldenstrom's disease--a rare condition affecting properites of the blood.

He reportedly said President Boumediene had never had cancer, and that the kidney failure he had suffered was a characteristic symptom of Waldenstrom's Disease.

APS REPORTS BOUMEDIENE MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI

LD281900Y Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and president of the Council of Revolution, has sent the following message to President Ja'far Numayri, president of Sudan and acting president of OAU:

"At the moment information from various sources is reaching us regarding the composition and the date of the next meeting of the ad hoc committee for study of the Western Sahara issue concerning the implementation of the resolution adopted at the Khartoum summit. While highly appreciating your constant personal efforts made in order to fulfill the mission with which our organization had entrusted you, I would like to let you know what is the Algerian point of view in this matter.

"Loyal to the decisions of the OAU and confident as to her capacity to contribute to the search for solutions being in accordance with the principles of its charter, namely the field of decolonization and respect of the rights of peoples to self-determination, Algeria has always shown its responsibility in contributing her loyal cooperation to all those charged with the mission of implementing our decisions.

"The proposals on the composition of the ad hoc committee were verbally transmitted to us last summer on your behalf as general secretary of the OAU. They had been considered by Algeria with all the interest they deserve. Since the circumstances of which you are aware have not allowed us to communicate formally our position on this subject, I am anxious to stress today that my country did not express either its agreement or opposition to these proposals, which, by the way, had obviously an exploratory character. Algeria did not judge it fitting to make reservations or to voice preconceived ideas about any proposals at this preparatory stage of consultations.

"We consider however, the message continues, that the consultations you are now pursuing must lead to a final agreement on the composition of the ad hoc committee on which all sides concerned must, in the ordinary course of things, agree.

"As far as the date of the first meeting of this committee is concerned, it appears to us desirable that, taking into consideration the obligations of the heads of state who are members of the committee and of other interested heads of state, extensive consultations should lead to an agreement on a definitive date. It will then be possible for all to make their full contribution to a just and lasting settlement of the Western Sahara problem.

"The efforts undertaken within our organization, which you have the exalted duty of presiding over on behalf of the African community, are allied to these efforts."

"It hardly needs stressing that these efforts are carried out in the same direction by the international community in the framework of the UN with a view to promoting the return of peace to the region by allowing the Saharan people freely to exercise its legitimate right of self-determination.

"Thus, the UN General Assembly has, according to the provisions of its Resolution 3222 of 9 December 1977, decided to resume the examination of the question of the Western Sahara at its 33d session. The bureau of the General Assembly, has, by the way, just approved in its agenda the discussion of this question as item 24 of the fourth commission which is to hear the POLISARIO's representative and take note of the report of the Decolonization Committee on the question of the Western Sahara.

"The examination of the question of the Western Sahara by the UN is in strict conformity with the resolution of the Khartoum summit which expressly stipulates, in its paragraph 7, that the UN remains entrusted with the problem of the Western Sahara's decolonization," President Boumediene's message adds.

"And so, you will, I am sure, understand our amazement at the news that the Secretariat General of the OAU has just sent a message to its representative in New York which expresses the wish--addressed to the Africa group--that the UN avoid the examination of the question of Western Sahara although it has been placed on the agenda of the present General Assembly under the above conditions.

"Algeria can do nothing but deplore this initiative which is contrary not only to the provisions of the UN and OAU resolutions, but also to the new spirit which we are constantly encouraging in order to allow the efforts of all concerned toward a political solution of the present crisis to progress through dialog and joint consultation.

"I should like, in this respect, to recall the efforts Algeria has always made in order to contribute to the implementation of the resolution on the Western Sahara adopted by the 13th African summit meeting at Port Louis in 1976 and the full availability of my country. We have, besides, informed you in our letter of 21 May 1978, that the African leaders have not forgotten Morocco's and Mauritania's systematic obstruction since the Mauritius summit of 1976 and the Lome conference of 1977 of all attempts undertaken by the OAU and the UN to find within an African framework a peaceful and just solution to the question of Western Sahara.

"We are convinced, President Boumediene adds, that you will exert your full authority which your high office lends you in order to dissipate the misunderstandings and ambiguities which threaten to spoil a climate which we, for our part, want to preserve in a debate which requires, more than ever, clarity, loyalty and good will from all.

"At a point in time when Algeria is, entirely against its will, in the focus of the entire international community's attention, the least I can do is--and without making a judgment on the issue--to register our most explicit reservations regarding the method that is attempted to be followed today concerning the implementation of the OAU and UN resolutions on a serious problem of decolonization.

"Reiterating our assurance of our cooperation, we remain convinced that in your wisdom you will make an eminent contribution to the establishment of a fair and definitive solution to a painful problem of decolonization which threatens the peace and security of a region which history and culture are calling to cooperation and fraternity," President Boumediene states in his message in conclusion.

UAE OIL MINISTER VISITS ALGERIA

LD290040Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The question of the increase in oil prices is currently the center of concerted action by OPEC countries. Within this context, Dr al-'Utaybah, United Arab Emirates oil and mining minister, paid a visit to Algeria which enabled him to meet Ahmed Ghozali, a meeting which dealt with the agenda of the forthcoming OPEC ministerial conference which will be held in Abu Dhabi. Dr al-'Utaybah presented his country's viewpoint on this matter. The meeting also enabled Ghozali, minister of energy and petrochemical industries, to state the position which Algeria will take during the next OPEC conference. So far it seems that a certain consensus is being reached (?among the states) in favor of an upwards readjustment of the prices of crude oil.

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES IN ALGIERS 27 NOV FOR TALKS

LD281048Y Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, APS--Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Algiers last night for talks with the Algerian leaders.

LIBYA

JAMAHIRIYAH SUPPORTS W. BANK MUNICIPALITIES

JN281315Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 November--Salih as-Sanusi, ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Amman, yesterday delivered a check in the amount of $200,000 to the mayor of Khan Yunis. This is part of the financial support offered by the municipality of Benghazi to the municipality of Khan Yunis.

The Libyan Embassy in Amman will deliver similar checks, within the next few days, to the municipalities of Nabulus and Qalqilyah.

UAE OIL MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI FOR TALKS

LD272304Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Mani' ibn Mani'sa'id al-'Utaybah, the UAE oil minister, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a few days' visit. He will conduct talks with Libyan officials at the Oil Ministry on bilateral cooperation and how to consolidate and promote this cooperation. He will also discuss other questions and issues relating to oil affairs.

OIL SECRETARY ATTACKS REACTIONARIES WITHIN OPEC

LD271826Y Tripoli JANA in English 1638 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 27 November, JANA--The Oil Secretary Mr 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk, attacked the policy of some reactionary countries within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries--OPEC--and indicated that such reactionary countries use the organization to achieve political aims at the expense of their peoples and stand against the implementation of the organization resolutions.

He said in a private talk with the newspaper AL-USBU' AS-SIYASI in its today's issue that the peoples of such countries were intent to foil [as received] unfounded issues and that that would vanish in the future. The oil price would be governed by supply and demand, where the reactionary policies would not have any effect or role in specifying and taking the organization resolutions.

Mr Mabruk refuted the Western allegation that the rise of oil prices since 1973 contributed to world inflation by saying that experts' reports confirm that the increase of oil prices had contributed to inflation with 1 percent only but the capitalist countries use this saying as an excuse. For they could not solve the existing problems in their economy, they also always rejected to change the economic situation of the world, as they dominate its basics.

Mr 'Izz ad-Din stated that the "OPEC" organisation suffered from lack of a free political will especially among the countries whose importance is relayed to the quantity of their production.

In spite of the continuous deterioration of the value of the dollar, and the American control of its floating position of its currency, the conditions are encouraging as yet to increase oil prices especially if the situation in Iran changes.

ITALIAN UNDER SECRETARY ENDS OFFICIAL VISIT

LD281454Y Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, November 28, JANA--Mr Luciano Radi the under-secretary of the Italian Foreign Ministry and the accompanying delegation left the Jamahiriyah yesterday afternoon after a one-day visit in which they conducted discussions on consolidating the bilateral relations and reinforcing the results achieved during the visit of the Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti to the Jamahiriyah, last week.

Mr Luciano was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by the assistant under-secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat, the head of the European Department, a representative from the Protocol Department at the Foreign Secretariat and the Italian ambassador accredited to the Jamahiriyah. Mr Radi delivered a statement to JANA's correspondent expressing his pleasure for the visit. He said: "I conducted talks with the officials in the Foreign Secretariat in a friendly atmosphere dominated by the spirit of understanding and cooperation for the achievement of peace and stability in the Mediterranean basin which concerns the two countries."

He added: "We share the same view points with regard to the non-alignment of the Republic of Malta, and the constructive dialogue will continue on this issue and other issues to consolidate the friendship and contribution in the development of nations."

MAURITANIA

SALECK'S NATIONAL DAY REMARKS REPORTED

ID290118Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] "On independence day, the leader of the National Recovery Movement addressed the nation. Here are excerpts of the address:

The president explained that this occasion should be a time for contemplation over the past and a torch that shows our road toward the future. But it was marked by a long period of empty hopes and [word indistinct] that disappears as soon as they took place." The president added that the Military Committee for National Recovery has been bent on rectifying the conditions which we experienced for many years.

"We are determined, the president added, to turn Mauritania into an independent country capable of occupying its place among the Arab countries, the (?African) countries and countries of the Third World. He reiterated the determination of the Military Committee to keep our country away from living under trusteeship or patronage, be it direct or indirect. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, he explained, was bent on establishing balanced relations with all its [word indistinct], not accepting any form of subservience from any (?one). Having explained that our country found itself directly involved in an instability which threatened both life and property, he stressed that the situation made peace in the Arab Maghreb the foremost concern of our people. It follows that any [word indistinct] policy cannot be realized in circumstances which are dominated by instability. The Military Committee and the government, motivated by a sincere desire to establish peace, have exerted good efforts so that peace and harmony prevail in the Arab Maghreb region. He added that all his visits abroad indicated that we were heading toward peace, which is a must for our nation, despite the fact that some (?pessimism) was observed. The Mauritanian people, he said, have to be patient and take into consideration the higher national interest of the Mauritanian nation. He stressed that the armed forces [words indistinct] in defense of national sovereignty, if need be."

We have also been trying to rescue our country from the economic crisis it had experienced. The Military Committee and the government have embarked on a program to rebuild the economy, thanks to help from sister and friendly countries.

"The Military Committee for National Recovery, he said, had given strict instructions to insure reform in administration. The (?authorities) he said would not hesitate for one moment in taking severe measures against any person who tries to trifle with public [word indistinct]. Concluding, he said that the task of national recovery is a long one which cannot be accomplished [words indistinct]. He called on Mauritanians to forget their differences so that we can, under [word indistinct] and order, to find solutions for the country's major problems that dominate our fate. The armed forces, he said, did not intervene in order to come to power. When we end the period of (?peace) and when we embark on democratic [word indistinct] and when we lay down a new economic policy, the Mauritanian people will be solely responsible for being at the help of rule. Then we will have accomplished our mission and opened the road to [word indistinct] and true democracy for our people."

MOROCCO

SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL CONDEMNS AS-SADAT'S POLICY

JN281315Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 November--Muhammad Al-Yaziji, member of the political office of the Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces, has stated that Egyptian President Anwar As-Sadat deviated from Arab unanimity when he signed the Camp David agreements with the Zionist enemy.

The Moroccan official said that As-Sadat's refusal to receive the delegation sent by the ninth Arab summit in Baghdad and his refusal to get acquainted with the contents of the letter from the chairman of the summit conference, Iraqi President Ahamad Hasan al-Bakr, means for certain that As-Sadat has fallen prisoner to an imperialist scheme aimed at supporting the Zionist expansionist policy and is trying to remove Egypt from the struggle arena.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today, the Moroccan official said that he is convinced that the Egyptian Arab people, who have much potential for struggle, as evidenced by their long history, will correct the course and bring Egypt back to the Arab struggle arena. He also stated that the National Charter for Joint Action between Iraq and Syria represents the only solution to the situation in the Arab arena. The charter is considered the foundation for an Arab unity struggle that will reflect on the Arab Maghreb and will bring this western wing of the Arab homeland to the frontline, side-by-side with their Palestinian, Iraqi and Syrian brothers.

Al-Yaziji said that the Arab summit resolutions in Baghdad make us optimistic. These resolutions are an important step toward serious Arab unified action and constitute a blow to the schemes of the imperialists, Zionists and their allies.

Al-Yaziji affirmed that the Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces will contribute to advancing Arab unity action according to its capabilities and aided by all the potential the Arab people in the Arab Maghreb enjoy.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, REVEALS OIL DISCOVERY

JN281400Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 28 November (SUNA)--Prospecting processes undertaken by the U.S. Chevron Company indicated good hope, said President Numayri yesterday here. The president made a lengthy speech yesterday inaugurating the second session of the People's Assembly (parliament). He reviewed various issues of development, internal and foreign policies. He said that drilling has been completed at two oil wells and started at extra two sites where it would be completed by the end of this year. "A comprehensive programme covering the southwestern Sudan will be drawn up to specify its petroleum possibilities. Contacts to study the possibility of exploiting natural gas which has been found at the Red Sea region," Numayri added. He told the assembly's members that four industrial countries wrote off their debts to Sudan which had totalled 270 million dollars.

These countries, he elaborated, were Federal Germany, Britain, Sweden and the Netherlands. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have agreed to reschedule their debts to Sudan. The Sudan managed to acquire grants and easy-conditioned loans from Saudi Arabia, U.S., France, United Kingdom, Federal Germany and Spain.

NUMAYRI OPENS NINTH AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

JN271809Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 27 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Nov (SUNA)--President Numayri expressed here today his happiness that African issues have been given priority in the United States foreign policy during Carter's administration.

He added "this indicates serious determination to seek fruitful cooperation with Africa and to reach for a common understanding on issues involved."

Numayri inaugurated today the sessions of the ninth African-American conference attended by 150 American and African politicians, diplomats and businessmen.

"There is no alternative but to implement the resolution of the last African summit, held in Khartoum, calling for a total oil embargo against Pretoria government as a means of bringing complete international pressure on the racist system for the restoration of social justice in South Africa and self-determination in Namibia," he said.

The president hoped that initiatives of Western countries on Namibia would be accompanied by definite decisions against South Africa if it refused to carry out elections under United Nations' auspices.

"There is no alternative now but for all African parties to turn to economic sanctions and confrontation with this racist system. There is no alternative but to implement Security Council Resolution No 417 of 1977, which calls for an arms embargo and an end to all military and economic dealings with South Africa."

He welcomed what had been confirmed by the 15th summit conference in Khartoum, recognition of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front as sole representative and leader of the country's people.

"We welcome the Anglo-American peace initiative, provided they guarantee the actual participation of the Patriotic Front," Numayri stressed.

"We call upon the United States not only to support the African front-line states Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, Angola, Tanzania and the liberation movements, but also to halt all kinds of support that might strengthen the racist system's fighting capability, military might and economic resources, and especially to cease its enormous investments in South Africa."

The conference is organized by the Sudanese Government and the New York-based African-American Institute. For the first time, American congressmen, including Senator McGovern, and officials, including Andrew Young, U.S. representative in the UN, are participating in African-American conferences. It is considered as a new trend in the U.S. policy indicating positive steps by the super power to understand African issues.

Numayri asserted that the development of the continent is hindered by the foreign intervention taking the form of mercenaries and foreign elements "trying to dominate us."

He mentioned the Sudanese experience in solving the problems of African countries by Africans themselves.

"The best examples are our efforts to help bring national unity in Chad and our endeavors for reconciliation and peaceful solution in the Horn of Africa, especially with regard to the Eritrean problem."

Again President Numayri called for forming a joint African force to "guarantee the independence, sovereignty and security of Africa and secure its liberation from imperialism and racism." "It must be an African force, working according to the spirit and goal of the Organization of African Unity and directed by the African spirit of unity and solidarity, as demonstrated in the formation of mediation and arbitration committees and other organs, able to contain conflicts and problems."

He touched also on the economic issue and called for greater and meaningful assistance from developed nations. He said that the U.S. could take the initiative in this regard, giving an example to other developed nations as to how best to help Africa economically.

Andrew Young, U.S. representative in the UN, then took the floor, expressed U.S. concern over Africa. He said it was not easy to get such gathering of wide spectrum of American delegates at one place to discuss a certain matter. He said that the U.S. administration is opposed to apartheid and stood for finding settlements to African issues by the Africans themselves.

The Kenyan foreign minister, Dr Munyua Waiyaki spoke on behalf of African delegates. He tackled a variety of topics including mutual cooperation between Africa and America, development of natural resources in Africa, utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and preservation of peace in Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Senator Dick Clark spoke for the American delegates. He criticized U.S. African policy for not giving sufficient support to African issues. He said "Carter's Africa policy has struck no chords of sympathy with the African public." He attributed the cause for three negative impulses which shape the American attitudes and named them as anti-administration, anti-Sovietism and antiterrorism.

Chaired by the vice president and foreign minister, Rashid at-Tahir, the conference will continue session this evening.

First Working Session

JN281408Y Khartoum SUNA in English at 1055 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 28 (SUNA)--The ninth African-American conference held its first working session in camera at the Friendship Hall here last night.

Chaired by Congressman J. Mitchell, the meeting discussed two papers on foreign intervention in Africa given by Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Francis Deng and the U.S. Senator George McGovern.

Following the meeting, pressmen were briefed by Dr Deng and Senator McGovern.

On the presentation he made at the closed session, Dr Deng said that it dealt with foreign intervention in the continent on various levels. The interests of the intervening powers, the interests of the powers that invite intervention, the motives behind inviting intervention, the consequences on the involved territories and the relations between the invitors and the invitees.

He reviewed the changing policies of the U.S. away from military intervention to much more constructive preoccupation with peaceful and diplomatic ways of solving problems through economic and development cooperation and appealed for more support to this new trend.

He noted a dichotomy the Africans make between Western and Eastern countries.

"The Africans say that the Eastern bloc is an ally in the liberation struggle, Dr Deng stated, adding that the Western countries are regarded as supporters of the principal elements of the colonial domination. The Africans therefore appreciated the support received from the Eastern countries, he said.

Dr Deng noted that new forces of intervention might hide behind the favour of having been partners to the African liberation struggle.

"We also recognize that the U.S. is adopting new ways of intervening in favour of reinforcing the peace effort through diplomatic activities to bring about solutions to problems, he said.

Briefing the press on his presentation, the U.S. Senator McGovern noted that foreign intervention in Africa goes back several years and that it was not invented by the U.S., Soviet Union or Cuba which came to the field the last few years.

"I think the best defence against big power manipulation and control on Africa is the force of nationalism," the senator suggested.

This force is much stronger than communism and capitalism. This lesson was learnt from Indochina" he added.

"As far as the U.S. is concerned, the U.S. intervention in the continent will be limited primarily to diplomatic initiatives encouraging the peace process, especially resolving the problems of race and domination of minority rule in southern Africa."

He said U.S. involvement would also include economic, technical and financial contribution, but very seriously avoid direct military involvement.

"The U.S. [word indistinct] involved itself in Africa militarily unless it was part of U.N. or multilateral operation," he stated on the possibility of U.S. assistance to the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe. Senator McGovern said that due to the domestic public opinion mood against intervention left by the legacy of Vietnam, he U.S. would limit its attitude to imposition of sanctions upon Ian Smith regime.

Optimism About Results

LD282256Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Text] The participants in the Afro-American conference currently in session at Friendship Hall in Khartoum have voiced their optimism over the results of this conference due to the spirit of dialog and positive and objective debate which has dominated its sessions, in addition to the preparations made for it. The vital issues with which it is dealing gives it a special significance with reference to current African issues, Dr Francis Deng, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, said.

Dr Deng said that the level and number of delegations participating in this conference were greater and higher than any of those that had taken part in previous similar conferences. Dr Francis Deng referred to the importance of the results of this conference vis-a-vis African issues inasmuch as it is meeting under critical times and a time when the United States is moving toward altering its policy toward the African Continent and [word indistinct] its assistance in confronting the challenges of peace and development by finding political means to deal with its various conflicts and by supporting it in the various economic and social fields.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA LEAVES FOR VISIT TO U.S.

LD272026Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpt] This evening Hedi Nouira, prime minister and secretary general of the party, left Tunis for the United States on an official visit of several days. Hedi Nouira is accompanied on this visit, which is at the invitation of President Jimmy Carter, by an important delegation which includes: Mohamed Fitouri, minister of foreign affairs; Hassen Belkhodja, minister of agriculture; Mustapha Zaanouni, minister-delegate attached to the prime minister; Hamid al-Abid, chief of staff of the prime minister's office; and a number of senior officials of various ministries.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON MILITARY SUCCESSES

LD272152Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] Liberated territories (Saharan Democratic Arab Republic)--The Defense Ministry of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] has issued a communique on the latest operations by the Saharan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] in occupied zones.

On the 22 November, they attacked occupation forces twice, about 50 km southeast of El-Farsya, destroying 3 jeeps, 2 of which carried guns, and 2 trucks, killing 14 enemy soldiers and wounding 15.

On 23 November, the SPLA operated against the Boujdor garrison, destroying the local communications center. On the same day an enemy unit was attacked near Tifariti. The SPLA captured a jeep and 2 machineguns, killed 25 Moroccan soldiers, wounded 30 and destroyed 4 vehicles and an armored combat vehicle. Two enemy vehicles were blown up by mines placed by the SPLA in the same region, killing six soldiers.

In the afternoon of 23 November our forces attacked enemy units in Bu Craa, destroying the first and sixth stations and putting the local electricity station out of action. They killed 21 enemy soldiers and wounded 25.

On 24 November the SPLA attacked several foreign ships which violated the SDAR territorial waters, sinking one off Tamaia, north of Dakhla.

DEFENSE MINISTRY CLAIMS LOW MORALE AMONG MOROCCAN SOLDIERS

LD272153Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] The Defense Ministry of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic issued a communique on Sunday on the declining morale of the Moroccan Army in the light of its many losses after 3 years of war. Their morale is at its lowest ebb, as the soldiers do not see why they are fighting in the Sahara and have no motivation.

The communique analyzes the reasons why the Moroccan Army is fighting in the Sahara and says the army feels despised and far from its people. It is used as an instrument of repression, and this affects its dignity and honor.

The communique also deplores the living conditions of the Moroccan soldiers and accuses the officers of being corrupt.

MINISTER HAMMER ON AUTONOMY PLAN, CABINET RESHUFFLE

TA281702Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Interview with Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer by Dov Genehovski, Yizhaq Shor, Hayyim Zissowitz, Elimelekh Ram, Hayyim Alre'i, and Yosi 'Abadi, moderated by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat within the framework of the biweekly program: Gentlemen, the Press at Bet Agron in Jerusalem--live]

[Excerpts] [Yosi 'Abadi] In the cabinet session last week you voted against the draft peace treaty. Do you not agree with the foreign minister's definition of the peace treaty, which the cabinet agreed was very good?

[Hammer] At the cabinet session, I said something like this: I have no objection to certain parts of the decision that was made, but it is important that we see the issue in its entirety, and if the cabinet indeed means that it agreed to the treaty as it was given--with its disadvantages and advantages--but also means not to accept the accompanying letter with its demand for a timetable, similar weight should be accorded to both decisions and they should be interlinked so that we will not reach a situation--which we may face in the next few days--whereby the concessions we made in accepting the agreement, and there were concessions, are accepted by the other party whereas our conditions regarding not linking this operationally to the issues of Judaea and Samaria--what is termed the accompanying letter and including the timetable concerning Gaza--[are not accepted]. It should not be final, and we should not be required, when the time comes, to start negotiating it. My proposal then was to tie the things: that is, that we accept the treaty even though it has various faults, but on condition that the other party accept the absence of a timetable--and by the other party I mean both the United States and Egypt.

[Ben-Porat] It is known that at a certain stage the foreign minister accepted a hint or a certain formula about a timetable. Is it true that you were one of those who persuaded him to rescind this?

[Hammer] I do not know. All I know is that I was against a timetable and that finally the cabinet decided against it, including the foreign minister.

[Ben-Porat] Did you talk to the foreign minister about this?

[Hammer] In the last period, I held several talks with the foreign minister and with the prime minister and other ministers on these issues as well. But without entering into this specific issue at this moment, I am sure the foreign minister had his own reasons.

I do think, however, that the formulation of the entire decision--not this detail but the formula of the whole decision which included a firm stance, like the one expressed now by the foreign minister that we are insisting upon our decision not to accept a timetable--it seems to me that I, or the MAFDAL, had a role to play in causing this.

[Elimelekh Ram] Mr Minister, there is no doubt that currently there is a certain freeze in the negotiations. Don't you think that Israel may--or perhaps should--accept, one way or another, perhaps in a formulation convenient for it, the U.S. compromise regarding a timetable in order to renew the political momentum?

[Hammer] No. I do not think it should accept anything which will bind it so that in the coming year--in return for an agreement with Egypt--Israel will have to take hasty steps along all the fronts, including Judaea and Samaria, because the implication of accepting the proposal--you may call it a U.S. proposal or you may call it Egyptian; let us say that the difference between them is ultimately a few months, because both of them mention time: 9 or 12 months--certainly links it not only to the Egyptians' ability to rescind and not fulfill their part of the treaty by saying that we have not fulfilled our part in the east [Judaea and Samaria] but also we would simply thus be facing great pressure to carry out the withdrawal in the Sinai and a withdrawal--to whatever extent--in Judaea and Samaria as well and to do this fully within 1 year. It seems to me that this pressure is something to which we should not agree, definitely not.

[Ram] Where do you see the possibility of thawing the negotiations which--as I stated and you agreed with me by nodding--have reached a freeze?

[Hammer] Well, first of all we are waiting for the Egyptian response. This seems to me to be the right step. Israel has decided to accept the treaty toward which it had several reservations even before--and so did the Egyptians. Israel agreed to waive its reservations and it is awaiting the Egyptians' response. Second, Israel has announced that it requests no timetable. Israel has agreed to some loose things--with which I do not agree but Israel has, such as beginning the negotiations with Egypt on Judaea and Samaria even if Jordan does not enter into the picture. Israel has accepted, stating, without mentioning a specific time, the desire to end the negotiations [on Judaea and Samaria] in good faith and within a reasonable time. Israel has proposed many formulas which do not specifically bind it in terms of dates or hours or timetable. That is why Israel has taken steps which I think should have been appreciated. By the way, I predicted that the concessions would not be appropriately appreciated and that it would later be demanded that we make further concessions, but we must insist on it. The cabinet's decision should indeed be as the foreign minister explained it: one entity. And, moreover, it should be an even stronger unity.

[Ram] In other words, you would be willing to accept a certain definition of the beginning of implementation of the autonomy if no specific date is set? I want to understand.

[Hammer] No. I said that the cabinet has agreed--though I was against it, but the cabinet decided so--to begin the talks, but not to begin implementing the autonomy; not the date for beginning implementation of the autonomy.

[Ben-Porat] You have never concealed the fact--and you said it here as well--that you strongly object to the timetable, not only that regarding holding the elections within approximately 1 year but also to setting a definite date for beginning the negotiations [on the autonomy]. There is one thing I do not understand. Perhaps you have never been enthusiastic about this institution called the autonomy but you accepted it, as a cabinet member, with all the changes it underwent--and this plan has undergone changes. Why is there no willingness, either in the cabinet or in you, to carry this out as soon as possible? Why does the timetable bother you so much if we really want to carry out this autonomy?

[Hammer] First of all, I would like to remind everyone that we accepted--rather the cabinet accepted--the Camp David accords, where it is stated that what pertains to Judaea and Samaria will be done with the consent of Egypt, Jordan and Israel. So that if you do not want to go beyond the Camp David accords, Egypt alone is no partner to conclude this business with. Let us first of all start with the formal business; I will explain later the reason underlying this. So, first of all it is no partner. We are doing an extraordinary thing--once the prime minister wanted to call it "notwithstanding" [word in English], that is, despite the fact that it does not pertain to the agreements which we have agreed upon, we are making an exception this time by agreeing to enter into negotiations on it. I think that by this we will be paying a double price: First of all we will be sitting with the Egyptians, bargaining over the autonomy and at the same time we will not be given a guarantee of peace from Jordan because it did not accept it. In order to get peace with Egypt we will be making great concessions in Judaea and Samaria while, if Jordan comes to us later, we will have to continue negotiations from there onward, because they will say: Listen, it is very nice of you to have reached the end of the road, but you should begin the negotiations with us on peace with Jordan.

That is why I said that first of all an effort should be made to comply with the Camp David accords in their spirit, but also as stated. And as stated means that if Jordan and Egypt are present we will sit with all three of them [number as heard] and what we have undertaken upon ourselves will be binding and we will act accordingly. This is also beneficial because if Jordan enters into the negotiations, it, too, enters into the circle [of negotiations] and you can include the eastern front as, to a very large degree, this is a part of our goal. A comprehensive peace is not only comprehensive in that you give a comprehensive peace; but you also get a comprehensive peace, and by this we will be adding the eastern front to the southern one. In my opinion, therefore, it is wrong [to have a timetable] and also, the psychology of negotiations and its practicability seem to me to be leading to this: first you finish on this front and then continue on the other. That is why I did not give my support to this issue.

However, what we did not want here was: the cabinet ultimately made a commitment to enter into the issue of the autonomy and the cabinet indeed intends to do so. True, the cabinet--as per my demand as well as that of other ministers-- has not yet held a deep and serious debate on what kind of autonomy it can and wants to implement and what it means by autonomy.

[Ben-Porat] Which in itself is rather strange, if I may say so, because you proposed the autonomy, the cabinet did, and the other party accepted it and you still do not know exactly what you are talking about?

[Hammer] No. I would say this: The other party, too, does not know exactly what the autonomy means. Autonomy is the framework word which says: self-rule, let us say, of one nature or another. This is what it is in Hebrew and that is what it is in English, though I do not know what it is in Arabic. However, you reach a stage where you say: it is a kind of arrangement for self-rule. But how to realize it? There are many, many questions that are well-known and I will only repeat them briefly for those who have the patience to hear: the questions of the land; the state property, the rocky lands, the deserted property; the problems of water; those of the jurisdiction; of the identity card. These are not questions of sovereignty but questions involving human lives there, including the police force, security--how, precisely. These things have been changed slightly from what the prime minister had in mind when he proposed the autonomy, and that is clear.

It has been changed already. Now one must look at the details. Some things have not been covered in the framework, and if they are covered differently (?what room is there to continue the negotiations)?

What are all these things which you want: the (?"modality") [in English] the "responsibility" [in English] or the "power" [in English], what do you want to examine during this year? All these issues should be examined during this year, but we must first of all examine them amongst ourselves; what do we mean when we say that the autonomy will not be a future Palestinian country? This is actually what worries everybody and what nobody, I think, wants--or at least the majority of the population in Israel does not. How do you build an autonomy? On the one hand you grant the inhabitants freedom of expression, freedom to organize and give them a municipal status--perhaps even more than that--while, on the other hand, you do not include the autonomy constituting a quick entry for a future Palestinian country?

Well, first of all, as a first stage we must discuss internally where is the boundary we are not prepared to pass, because otherwise things will actually undergo an erosion from now on. But this requires time. I am now talking about why I object to fixing a starting date in the timetable--the second point--you need time, and we must first of all take 1 year and deal with the withdrawal from Sinai. To do in 3 years what you did, the other way around, in 11 years is not simple either financially or in terms of organization: the roads, everything that must be built in the Negev in 3 years--at the same time to have to negotiate under these pressures and with the threat that if we do not succeed on this front it will bring the other to a halt. It is not that we are avoiding the issue; we accept whatever the Israeli Cabinet has accepted.

[Ben-Porat] But you want to halt the speed of events?

[Hammer] I do not want to halt it, but I want us to do things after careful thought and without pressure. We want a real peace.

I think it was a U.S. mistake--and, by the way, also an Egyptian mistake, shall we say--to pressure us to finish everything at once so that we feel secluded both emotionally and effectively from all directions in the first year. In my opinion it is impossible to bear this.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can we conclude, then, from what you have said that the issue of the autonomy should not have been brought up at all in the negotiations with Egypt?

[Hammer] I did not say that. You are reading something into my words, but perhaps I am not careful enough or accurate enough, but I did not say that. The autonomy is one possibility, but of course if we could have done without it [this would have been preferable]. I presume that those who negotiated during the first stages--and you remember that the first stages were not unanimously agreed upon in the cabinet, that is, there were several prior stages to it [presumably the autonomy plan]--but those who negotiated must have reached the conclusion and the agreement on it that without mentioning some kind of general directions for the eastern front, it would be impossible to end matters with respect to the southern front, even though we have gone very far in the south, in fact we have given everything in the south. Everything. That is why I am not criticizing this now, but one day we will have to analyze things.

One must consider what kind of autonomy it is: there is a kind of autonomy which you can say is worse than a territorial compromise, or bad in general; and there is an autonomy which is better [than a territorial compromise]. If the autonomy is as I believe the prime minister understands it, or as I would like to conceive of it and would like to act so that the cabinet would see it in the same light, perhaps it would be better. However, this is definitely problematic.

[Ben-Porat] Has there been a discussion on when to hold the cabinet debate on the autonomy?

[Hammer] How shall I put it, without setting a timetable--as we said with respect to the Egyptians: soon. [general laughter]

[Ram] Will the MAFDAL ultimately accept the prime minister's decision on a redistribution of several cabinet portfolios?

[Hammer] There was some degree of dissatisfaction in the MAFDAL with respect to the number of portfolios, mainly regarding the Democratic Movement, as the portfolios are distributed according to power, not voluntarily. The MAFDAL represents 12 [Knesset seats] and has 3 [portfolios], whereas the Democratic Movement represents 7 and it should have received--and I do not want to increase their anger--hardly 2, let us say, while it has 3. So clearly there is some dissatisfaction here because we say that the count is inaccurate and perhaps in various decisions this can have a bearing, especially in decisions in which the MAFDAL has great interest and about which the Democratic Movement does not always have the same view. So there is dissatisfaction in this respect, but this is connected with the entire issue because there are reshuffles within the Likud about which, in my humble opinion, the MAFDAL should not have made such a row. It can be asked its opinion and it can say what it thinks, but this is not a matter for contention.

The other thing, however, is more substantive concerning the overall functioning of the cabinet, and that is why the MAFDAL wants to discuss it, including also--if I take this opportunity to give the hint--the proportional part it has in the cabinet. Some members [of the MAFDAL] feel a certain dissatisfaction because it at first brought about the political somersault [the 1977 elections and change of government], to a large degree, and served as the core of the shift, and I would say that recently for various reasons there is a feeling that the MAFDAL is not exactly at the center of influence on matters over which it would have liked to have influence and this perhaps results from--just as some of the MAFDAL's unhappiness in the previous cabinet as well--the positions, but also from the attitude toward it. This we have observed all too quickly, I would say. And in order to create a pleasant atmosphere, the MAFDAL would like to have a discussion on this as well as on the subject of the distribution of portfolios.

[Genehovski] Do you foresee a full term for this cabinet? You have hinted at it, but under what circumstances would you insist that we go to the polls?

[Hammer] It is hard for me to say whether the cabinet will complete its term; it depends on many external factors. As far as I am concerned, significant issues in politics which I would interpret, with respect to Judaea and Samaria and Jerusalem, as issues on which the cabinet holds completely different views than we believe in and which endanger the society in Israel and the country as well as the basic viewpoints we have on this issue, on these issues the MAFDAL will have to consider whether it could share the cabinet's views or not. But more details are needed.

[Genehovski] That is, we do not go to the polls on a peace treaty with Egypt, but on the autonomy?

[Hammer] On a peace treaty with Egypt, in my humble opinion--no; with respect to the east, and if you wish one day with respect to the north as well, perhaps, depending.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to return to the issue of the ministerial reshuffle. In the situation where the Democratic Movement is threatening to withdraw from the cabinet if the number of its ministers is limited and the Likud has an internal opposition--is this the time to raise party disputes?

[Hammer] Well, this is one of the issues, but we did not regard this as the center of our lives in the last period, the reason being the one you have just mentioned; we have no interest at the moment in dealing with marginal issues. Social issues, economic issues and political issues are central, and we have no interest in dealing with party affairs instead. The fact that someone says he will resign if he is not given something which is beyond his capabilities [as heard], I would not say that this is fair in the argument. The MAFDAL can also say: Please give me portfolios as per my power as well; otherwise I am leaving the cabinet. But this is not the issue at hand.

However, I see this differently. I understand that here there is a distinction between adding a minister and removing one. This is the problem that exists here. Perhaps if there were stricter rules, whereby there is one minister per four Knesset members and anyone who holds a portfolio beyond that would automatically leave [would have been better]. But here is a problem where a party says: I already have someone in the cabinet and I don't want to remove him. I understand the problem psychologically and socially, but it must be solved. It is not a question of party conflicts; it is a question of how the cabinet votes.

How does the cabinet vote? Let us say it votes on the education or social betterment budget: it depends on the powers inside it, how much power each member has and how each one understands things. Each member has his own concepts and this is a coalition cabinet, it is not made up of one whole. Thus, various ministers hold various opinions and the real weight of the public representation changes and there is no absolute fairness in terms of the vote. Not everything is decided upon by the Knesset. A lot is decided at the cabinet level and it decides according to the powers in it. Many times--though not always--it is a unanimous vote; sometimes things are decided by one vote--such a case can happen. Besides, it is not only the vote itself but also the atmosphere created around certain subjects, a cabinet's concept of things and the importance of various concepts in the cabinet. It is not a question of a fight between the parties. If the MAFDAL had, for example, come and said: I do not agree to the ministerial changes, I would say that this is an intervention into an area which this is not the time to discuss. But here the issue is more one of principle. If you ask me if it is more important than peace or education--no. But it is definitely an issue which deserves to be dealt by everyone equally and not by those who threaten versus those who do not. All the parties together should think about how to solve it in such a way that it would be remedied without harming anything and even helping things.

POLICE, SECURITY FORCES DECLARE ALERT FOR 29 NOVEMBER

TA290630Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The police and security forces have declared a special alert today, 29 November, the day of the UN resolution on the partition of Eretz Yisra'el.

The Palestine Day events initiated by the United Nations will be held in the UN center in New York today. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will participate. The United States and Britain have announced that they will not participate in the ceremonies.

A protest demonstration against the UN initiative organized by the Zionist federation will be held in front of the UN building. UN offices will be closed for fear of protest activities by pro-Israelis.

Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat yesterday sent a message to the UN secretary general on the occasion of Palestine Day. As-Sadat emphasized that the framework that would enable the Palestinians to get back their rights was outlined at Camp David.

DISTURBANCES OF ORDER IN WEST BANK ON 29 NOVEMBER

TA291224Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Disruptions in studies and commerce were noted in Ramallah today on the occasion of Palestine Day. Students of several high schools hurled stones at IDF vehicles and blocked roads. Security personnel dispersed them. The students also urged merchants to close their shops, but a security force dispersed the inciters and the shops reopened.

Youths tried to block the main road to Nabulus in the refugee camp of Al-Jalazun near Ramallah, but the security personnel evacuated the axis for traffic.

Studies in Halhul in Hebron ended earlier than usual but no disturbances have been reported.

Special Measures Adopted

TA291225Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Text] For 29 November the security forces have adopted special measures to foil riots in Judaea and Samaria towns.

Yesterday leaflets were circulated and slogans drawn on the walls calling the residents to lay commerce and schools idle, to paralyze public services and to demonstrate against the Israeli tendency to introduce autonomy in the region.

As in the past, the source of ferment is in the students' circles in the colleges of Nabulus, Bi'r Zayt, Bethlehem and Hebron. Many students yesterday toured the markets in order to influence businessmen not to open their shops today.

It was reported by the Judaea and Samaria Command yesterday that the policy adopted in the past would guide the military governors today. Its main points are not reinforcing units in the urban centers, not obliging the merchants to open their shops and not making the students go to school.

In contrast, the security elements will foil any tendency to demonstrate and riot. The military authorities know that stu ents have recently spread rumors that many preemptive detentions have been carried out. These rumors were denied by the Judaea and Samaria Command yesterday.

KNESSET MEMBER REPORTS SOVIET ATTITUDE TO PEACE TREATY

TA291200Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago our correspondent talked with Knesset members Sarid and Melamed in Moscow. Sarid said in the talk that from informal talks with senior elements in the Soviet Union the impression was that they accept the Israeli-Egyptian agreement as a fait accompli. This fact will serve them as a point of departure from which they will try to take part in the continued negotiations in the region.

[Sarid--begin recording] On the basis of informal talks we held here today and yesterday in addition to the formal talks, one gets the impression that the Soviet Union is now preparing to return to take part in the peace negotiations in the region as soon as possible. It seems to us that the Russians are basing themselves on the assumption that despite all the difficulties and crises in the Washington talks, the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement is an accomplished fact that should be taken into consideration and from which they should once again depart on the road toward participating in peace negotiations.

The Russians are naturally firmly opposed to our peace agreement with Egypt. However, as far as one can judge, they are not thinking in terms of turning back the wheel. The Soviet Union will apparently exert pressure on the United States with the intention of returning to the Geneva conference format. In order to facilitate this return one may expect a certain change in the Soviet tone toward Israel. The Russians will want to appear as a more balanced element in the Middle East conflict and will make an effort to give their appearance such a character. It is possible that the first signs of the change in tone can already be sensed and our visit here may surely be interpreted against this general background. [end recording]

KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECURITY COMMITTEE BRIEFED

TA291057Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 4 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizur]

[Text] The assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Sason, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday that President as-Sadat's control of Egypt is firm and that he can shape Egyptian public opinion as he likes, when he likes.

Sason reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee on the assessments of the Center for Research and Policy Planning in the Foreign Ministry. He explained that President as-Sadat can influence Egyptian public opinion. Therefore, it is thought in Jerusalem that As-Sadat will have no difficulty as far as Egypt's public opinion goes if he indeed decides to embark on the road of peace with Israel.

According to Sason, there is great disappointment among the Saudi royal family over the Americans' inability to prevent the Iranian riots and the deterioration in the shah's status. This was the main reason motivating Saudi Arabia to participate in the recent Baghdad summit of the rejectionist countries.

MK SHAMIR TO FORM ONE-MAN PARTY IF TREATY SIGNED

TA281549Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] MK Moshe Shamir from the Likud said that if the cabinet signs the peace treaty with Egypt and if the Knesset approves it, he will resign from the Likud and form a one-man party. Our Knesset correspondent Razi Barqay says that MK Shamir has jointed MK's [Yiga'el] Horowitz, [Zalman] Shoval and [Yizhaq] Perez to form a faction within the Likud; however, while the others do not favor leaving the coalition at this stage, MK Shamir thinks he should fight against the cabinet from the opposition benches if the peace treaty is signed.

JERUSALEM SHOCKED BY UN STANCE ON ARMS EMBARGO

TA281226Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] A governmental source in Jerusalem has expressed shock and disappointment at the fact that Egypt joined the group of countries who initiated the demand that the Security Council place an embargo on the sale of arms to Israel. This demand was accepted last night by the UN Political Committee.

The Jerusalem source said it was inconceivable that the Egyptians should behave hypocritically in their contacts with us and identify themselves with decisions whose real intentions are to destroy the state of Israel. He pointed out that the decision made by the UN Political Committee directly contradicts the Camp David agreements and the clause in the draft treaty granting the treaty preference over all previous commitments undertaken by the two countries.

Egyptian Stand Condemned

TA281633Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Jerusalem has not issued any comment on the unofficial reports from Cairo about the changes President as-Sadat wants to introduce in the peace treaty as a condition for its approval by Egypt. Our correspondent Yosi 'Abadi remarks that in fact the Egyptian changes as published in the papers constitute a new formula for the linkage between the Israeli-Egyptian agreement and the autonomy.

Government officials in Jerusalem have expressed great surprise over the fact that Egypt has backed the draft resolution in the Political Committee of the UN General Assembly demanding an embargo on arms supply to Israel. The government sources said that by joining this initiative, Egypt has in fact contradicted the Camp David agreements and the draft peace treaty as consolidated in the negotiations in Washington.

Greater Israel Movement on Stand

TA282012Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The Greater Israel Movement says that the fact that the cabinet has not reacted to the anti-Israeli madness, as Egypt has defined it, proves that Egypt's wisdom and moves cannot be trusted. The movement says Egypt's position has found its expression in the latest session of UNESCO, in the latest decision made by the UN Political Committee as well as in the new anti-Semitic attacks which have been appearing in the Cairo press.

EGYPT CALLED ON TO COMPENSATE LOSSES OF JEWISH REFUGEES

TA281552Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The world organization of Jews from Arab countries has called on the Egyptian president to reimburse the 80,000 Jews who have left Egypt for the loss of their private and communal property. This call was voiced at a convention the organization held in Geneva. A similar petition was forwarded to President as-Sadat via the Egyptian Consulate in Geneva.

ISRAEL WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH UNESCO COMMITTEE

TA281416Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Israel will not cooperate with a UNESCO delegation if the organization decides to send such a delegation to Israel to investigate the situation in the territories. A Jerusalem source said that the decision was made following the condemnation passed last night at the UNESCO committee, in which Israel was condemned for what the committee termed the oppression of the national heritage of the inhabitants of the territories.

JEWISH AGENCY DRAWS UP JUDAEA, SAMARIA SETTLEMENT PLAN

TA282024Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Jewish Agency's Agriculture Department, Mattityahu Drobles, says that 54 billion Israeli pounds must be invested in Judaea and Samaria in the next 5 years to settle 27,000 families there. Mr Drobles states this in a master plan for the development of settlement in Judaea and Samaria. Copies of the plan have been forwarded to the prime minister and to the chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement as well as to members of the Jewish Agency Executive. However, the publication of this plan has been put off until it is discussed by the settling bodies. Nevertheless, our correspondent on settlement affairs Yig'al Goren has received some details about it.

[Goren--apparently live] The chairman of the [Jewish Agency] Agriculture Department, Herut member Mattityahu Drobles, is not satisfied with the rate of settlement in Judaea and Samaria. According to the plan he has drawn up in the last few days, the sum of 16 billion Israeli pounds should be invested next year to settle 8,000 families either in existing settlements or new settlements which will be established in Judaea and Samaria.

The head of the Agriculture Department states that according to a land survey he recently carried out, it is possible to settle 46 new settlements throughout Judaea and Samaria in the next 5 years. This map shows the existing settlements in dark triangles and the new ones in light triangles.

The settlements will be dispersed from the Janin area in the north along the green line. There will be a massive bloc of settlements near Allon More and Qarne Shomron, to continue outward in the area of Bet El, An-Nabi Salih and Giv'on, down to Gush 'Ezyon and the southern part of the Hebron hills.

According to this plan, the investment required for the establishment of all the new settlements and for the expansion of the existing ones will reach 54 billion pounds. This sum will be sufficient for the absorption of 27,000 families. It must be pointed out that to date there are, in all the Judaea and Samaria settlements, around 1,300 families of settlers.

The new settlements should be established, according to Drobles' proposal, near the existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria to form continuous blocs of settlements. However, he determines that settlements should also be established near Arab settlements because in the future we will have to learn how to live with Arab inhabitants.

It must be pointed out that in about 2 weeks' time, the period of the 3 months' freeze on establishing new settlements in Judaea and Samaria will have expired and that this plan might be the master plan for settlement activity in the coming years.

Knesset Members React

TA290643Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Knesset members Mordekhay Virshubsky and Shemu'el Toledano of the SHAY, Change and Initiative faction, have submitted an urgent motion on the Jewish Agency Settlement Department's program to settle 27,000 Jewish families in Judaea and Samaria. The plan was submitted to the government by the head of the Settlement Department, Mattityahu Drobles. Virshubsky and Toledano say no one in Israel takes programs of this kind seriously as it will be impossible to find so many settlers. But the two Knesset members charge that such programs do grave damage to Israel's image abroad.

GOLAN SETTLEMENTS CLAIM NO FLESHING OUT THERE

TA291055Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 5 TA

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The committee of the Golan Heights settlements claims that the government has gone back on its decision to allocate more than 100 million Israeli pounds to fleshing-out activities in the Golan settlements.

An emergency meeting of the representatives of the Golan settlements said yesterday that the settlements had officially been told by the government that a budget of 110 million Israeli pounds for fleshing-out activities, in addition to 140 million Israeli pounds for current development works, would be given to the settlements. The fleshing-out activities included the erection of an additional 200 housing units in Qazrin and 250 housing units in the other settlements.

The representatives of the settlements said that the Jewish Agency Settlement Department had told them that the Finance Ministry is opposed to allocating the fleshing-out budget to them.

YEDI'OT REPORTS U.S. EMBASSY SURVEY OF W. BANK, GAZA

TA281239Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Nov 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Yisra'el Har'el]

[Text] In recent weeks, the U.S. Embassy in Israel has been conducting a comprehensive survey of the infrastructure (transport, water, electricity, industry and so forth) in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and various elements in the Israeli Government are having fears about the role the United States wishes to play in the affairs of the autonomy.

Among other things, the embassy has turned to the Ministry of Defense with requests for information about the territories. An Israeli official showed me a letter sent to the Ministry of Defense by the U.S. defense attache in Israel, Brigadier Gen Bissell, on 25 October. This letter, which was classified "confidential" by the Americans, is a request by the attache to the Ministry of Defense for comprehensive information on the consumption of energy in the territories on research being carried out on expected energy consumption up to 1990 and on the plans to meet this expected consumption.

The Americans requested similar information about transport, water, industry and so forth.

The Ministry of Defense supplied the Americans with the information they requested. The ministry spokesman told me in answer to a question on this matter that "the information furnished to the U.S. defense attache is furnished to anyone who requests it from us and it is part of the data that has already been published."

However, if the information is public why did the defense attache have to appeal to the ministry in a confidential letter?

The spokesman: "This matter is of no concern to us."

We asked the U.S. defense attache himself about this matter. Brigadier General Bissell, a U.S. Air Force man, told us that the information that Washington asked him to collect is "routine information." The collection of this information is, according to him, "something that takes place throughout the world and has nothing to do with autonomy. It's part of our job."

We asked him: "You asked for very specific information such as quantities and measurements. Is this routine information? And why did you ask for it now and not before the idea of the autonomy arose?"

The attache: "I cannot remember what information I asked for and when. I believe I asked for information about water but this took place before the autonomy was mentioned."

Elements in Israel believe the collection of information by the Americans is aimed at serving them in their efforts to persuade the opponents of the autonomy in the territories to withdraw their opposition. It is also believed that they are promising the opponents of the autonomy that it is worthwhile for them to accept it because later on it will be able to serve as the foundation for a Palestinian entity [yishut Palestina'it].

The data being collected by the Americans will also probably be able to serve them in planning for aid to the autonomy without channeling it through Israel. This American activity, which is presently at its height, might provide an unexpected dimension to the autonomy.

[A front-page photograph of the letter sent by the U.S. defense attache accompanies the report and carries the caption: "This is a photograph of one of the letters sent by the U.S. defense attache to the Defense Ministry with a request for information on the infrastructure in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The letter in the photograph deals with the consumption of electricity in the territories. At the top and bottom of the letter appears the stamp "confidential."]

Jerusalem Radio Report

TA281245Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Herbrew 1105 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] A letter sent from the military attache in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv is arousing a wave of curiosity, after it was published in the paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT. In the letter, the attache asks for information about the electricity consumption in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It was reported to our correspondent Dan Eshel that the details were requested in the framework of routine interest by the U.S. State Department.

[Presumably Eshel--live or recorded] From time to time, the State Department takes an interest in statistical data on Israel. Questions from the U.S. State Department are directed to the economic attache of the embassy here and this was also the case this time, except that the State Department's request also included similar data--that is, a request to receive data--on the territories. Since the territories are within the sphere of the military government, the State Department's request was directed to the military attache and he, for his part, sent the letter which appears in YEDI'OT AHARONOT. By the way, the letter was sent on 24 or 25 October.

The U.S. Embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv, Jack Touhey, told me that the letter was mistakenly described as "confidential" [in English].

The letter was directed to the IDF branch dealing with military attaches and not to the Ministry of Defense. Sources in the Ministry of Defense told us that there was no infringement in this appeal and that similar appeals are received, for example, from the British Embassy in Israel as well.

It was reported to me from the U.S. Embassy that such information is requested by the State Department from embassies throughout the world and this is done in the framework of routine interest. The embassy is amazed at the publicity given to the letter of the military attache. The letter has no connection with the autonomy program, I was told in the embassy; similar information was requested even before the Camp David conference.

Further YEDI'OT Report

TA291100Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 2 TA

[Editorial: "It is Not Without Intention"]

[Text] The disclosure made in YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday ("the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv has been conducting a comprehensive survey of the infrastructure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip") is very interesting, because of the fact that the Americans embarked on the survey only after the emergence of the autonomy problem and declared it "classified." This means that the reason for the survey is not mere curiosity on their part. They have their own intention in the matter.

There is reason to believe that the intention is to influence and urge the parties into giving the autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip a direction compatible with the spirit of U.S. views.

There is no doubt regarding this: The autonomy envisaged by Washington is basically different from ours. While for us it is a self-contained matter, for the Americans it constitutes only a phase in the development toward a state in the West Bank. Therefore, they need the most minute details about the actual situation. They want to make use of the facts for their own aims, and our Defense Ministry should be less innocent in supplying information to any seeker.

JERUSALEM RADIO GIVES BREAKDOWN OF 1978-79 BUDGET

TA281812Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The state budget presented to the cabinet today amounts to a little more than 304 billion Israeli pounds. Our correspondent Zevi Kessler brings more details on this budget, details of which have only now been released. The defense expenditure will be 87 billion pounds, which consists of 47 billion in pounds and close to 1.5 billion in dollars. The defense budget comprises 29 percent of the entire budget. The development budget amounts to 33 billion Israeli pounds, comprising 11 percent of the overall budget. The largest allotment is for repayment of debts: 90 billion pounds, which is about 30 percent of the budget.

The subsidies for goods and services amount to 9 billion pounds, which is approximately 3 percent of the budget. Our correspondent on economic affairs says that prior to today's cabinet session there was a difference of 10 billion pounds between the ministers' demands and the draft budget. However, senior sources in Jerusalem have reported that now several ministers are demonstrating responsiveness to decrease their demands.

Further data on the budget follows. Next year, the rate of the dollar will, on average, be 24 Israeli pounds per dollar and at the end of the fiscal year will be 26 pounds per dollar. The cabinet's inflow of money will amount to 8.5 billion pounds, which is 6 billion pounds less than what came in this year.

In the field of public construction there will be a total freeze on beginning construction work, including that of schools, hospitals and paving roads except for the redeployment work in the Negev.

Senior Finance Ministry officials said that in their estimation it is possible to increase the internal tax income by 5 billion pounds. The Bank of Israel governor said at the cabinet session that if a decision is made to increase the budget by 5 billion pounds, it will imply an inflation of 56 percent.

Further Details of Budget

TA282039Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[Excerpt] [Economic correspondent Elisha' Spiegleman--live] Let us correct the figure: the budget is 306,146,000,000 Israeli pounds. I have a copy of the draft presented to the cabinet today. After looking at the draft, one can find several new proposals, including: next year financing the parties' budget will be cut by 30 percent; the employment service in the Labor Ministry will be reorganized and 300 employees there will be fired. On the issue of subsidies, it is stated in the budget that the former method will be continued--that is, a cut of approximately 10 percent every 2 months. In the field of construction--this will be increased and next year work will begin on 40,000 housing units, mainly for the rehabilitation of neighborhoods, for young couples and immigration absorption. In the field of energy--no sums have been allotted for oil research within the green line at all. In general, the research work will be decreased. This decision has already brought the director general

of the Energy Ministry's threat of resignation. The Finance Ministry is demanding that search for oil will be financed by private investors.

As for the Defense Ministry, it will limit all the regular construction activity in the north and central regions and will funnel all the resources to construction work in the Negev. It is stated in the budget that despite the cutbacks, the production of the Kfir aircraft and the Merkava tank will be permitted to continue. At the same time, Finance Ministry personnel clearly admit in their draft that the proposed framework will not enable the IDF to realize its plans and the army will have to set priorities for carrying out its plans. And finally, according to the copy of the draft which I have, the rate of immigration will increase and 10,000 more people will arrive in Israel next year.

Further Inflation Feared

TA290800Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 Nov 78 p 1, 2 TA

[By Shlomo Maoz, POST economic reporter]

[Excerpts] Prices of basic foodstuffs will rise by 75 percent in the next fiscal year and public transport fares will go up by 85 percent, according to calculations from the budget tabled with the cabinet yesterday.

Even half of the additions to next year's budget demanded by the various government ministries would cause 50 percent inflation, Bank of Israel Governor Arnon Gafni warned the cabinet, informed sources told the Jerusalem POST.

Acceding to all of the ministers' demands for more money--a total of IL10 billion in addition to the proposed IL306,146,000,000 budget--would result in such inflation that the budget would have to be IL350 billion just to cover the costs in real-money terms, a senior treasury official said yesterday. The cabinet will meet again on Sunday to continue its debate on the budget.

The deficit anticipated will be IL8.5 billion while injection of money into the economy will be IL9 billion, it was learned. The budget envisages an extra IL5 billion in tax revenue to keep the deficit at IL8.5 billion although tax officials claim that it is unlikely that they will be able to raise this money.

The budget reportedly forecasts an increase of 10,000 in the number of immigrants entering the country next year--35,000 as compared with this year's 25,000.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting, Premier Menahem Begin had harsh words for those ministers who he claimed had used the news media to hold public arguments about the insufficiency of their budgets. Begin and Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich decided to cancel the traditional press briefing about the budget and instructed the ministers and cabinet secretary Arye Na'or not to say a word about the meeting.

However, there were some ministerial comments. Labour and Social Affairs Minister Yisra'el Katz said after leaving the meeting that the "second Israel"--the poorer and more disadvantaged part of the population--has been hit twice--once by inflation and once by the budget for fiscal 1979-1980. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said he would not mind budget cuts--even in his ministry--but not as much as the treasury is demanding.

Some ministers, including Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hazera, took Begin's instructions seriously and would not say a word to reporters about the session.

Though the cabinet decided not to publish details of the budget, several of its more salient details were learned by the POST.

In real money terms next year's budget will be 6.6 percent larger than the budget for fiscal 1978-79. All civilian government services will be cut by two to three percent in real money terms. The ensuing surplus will be devoted to the costs of the withdrawal from the Sinai and the new infrastructure that must be built in the Negev. The treasury wants to freeze all building of schools, hospitals and roads in the north and centre of the country and devote all the country's resources to the Negev.

The Defence Ministry's budget will be IL87.85 billion of which IL47.25 billion will be in Israel pounds and $1.45 billion in dollars. This figure includes budgets for development of aircraft and the Merkava tank.

The Defence Ministry will apparently get more money from the budget's IL14.5 billion reserve and from the IL30 billion devoted to investments. Subsidies for cheap loans will be IL12 billion.

While the budget forecasts a 37 percent average rise in prices in the next fiscal year while calculating expenditure, its forecast so far as its revenue is concerned is 39 percent. Revenue from taxes will be IL145 billion (including the IL5 billion that the taxmen claim they will not be able to raise) and government debentures are planned to bring in IL35 billion.

Begin Calls Ministers To Order

TA2911000Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By DAVAR economic correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin yesterday "called the government ministers to order."

Toward the end of the latest cabinet meeting, Begin asked all the advisers and assistants present in the meeting hall, most of them Finance Ministry economists, to leave the hall. When only the cabinet ministers were left in the hall Begin warned them against disintegration of discipline. He condemned them for the attacks initiated in the communications media against the finance minister on the eve of the budget submission. The prime minister is of the opinion that that was not a collegial [last word in English] act and led the finance minister to answer the ministers' attacks and enter arguments about the state budget proposal even before the cabinet meeting.

The prime minister instructed the ministers not to talk with journalists or leak any detail from the discussions about the budget before these are concluded next week. According to his instructions, the briefing of journalists that was going to be given yesterday was canceled.

In the course of the brief discussion on this matter in the cabinet a proposal was made to turn all budget discussions into secret discussions until the submission of the budget to the Knesset, as is customary in some Western countries.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON EVE OF MOURNING PERIOD

LD281404Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] On the eve of the month of Moharram, the government today issued a statement which says that during the months of Moharram and Safar, which coincide with the period of mourning for the most revered of martyrs, Imam Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, the government will provide maximum facilities and arrangements for those who intend to organize or participate in mourning sessions. The government statement stresses that arrangements have been worked out for holding mourning sessions so that, while facilitating the holding of these sessions in suitable places, any form of sabotage, rioting and provocations will be prevented. Movement of mourning processions of any kind is absolutely forbidden.

AZHARI: LAWS CONTRARY TO ISLAM TO BE AMENDED

LD281204Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] In a statement today Prime Minister Gen Gholamreza Azhari announced that all those laws found to be contrary to Islamic laws will be amended. A text of the government's statement is as follows:

As I made it known in the course of the Majlis and the Senate debates on the government's program, in formulating and preparing laws and regulations, the teachings of the self-evident Islamic religion will be followed with the guidance of eminent ayatollahs or that of their representatives in order to fully implement the constitution. Similarly, any of the previous laws found to be contrary to or different from Islamic laws will be amended.

WEAPONS DISCOVERED IN WESTERN AZARBAYJAN

LD281902Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Western Azarbayjan's governorate-general announced that 21 sidearms, a Kalashnikov and two Brno rifles were today found in Reza'iyeh and [words indistinct]. Thanks to the vigilance and timely action of law enforcement officers, the perpetrators have been apprehended and handed over to a military tribunal.

In its statement western Azarbayjan's governorate-general noted that those who cooperate with law enforcement officials in the discovery of any weapons will be rewarded.

TEHRAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE CURRENCY DRAIN

LD281846Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tehran's public prosecutor today announced: A statement was recently received by the Tehran public prosecutor's office from the Central Bank Workers Association on the export of currency from the country, and the Tehran public prosecutor's office has investigated and studied this issue. Judges in the Tehran public prosecutor's office have been delegated to investigate the issue of the export of currency by a number of people, after studying the existing books, documents and proof at Tehran's Central Bank.

The deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran has placed certain information at the disposal of the Voice of Iran correspondent pertaining to people who have exported currency from the country.

AFGHANISTAN

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR KUWAIT TO NEGOTIATE LOAN TERMS

LDT281804Y Kabul in English to Europe 1400 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Eng Mohammad Gholam Rahimi, deputy minister for industries of the Ministry of Mines and Industries, at the head of a delegation, left for Kuwait today to negotiate the terms of a Kuwaiti loan for certain projects of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Prior to his departure he told a BAKHTAR reporter at Kabul International Airport that the projects that are planned to be financed out of Kuwait's loan will include the sugar refinery project of Baghlan, the Herat sugar refinery project and the Farahrud irrigation project. The chief of planning of the Ministry of Water and Power and the financial assistant of the Planning Department of the Ministry of Planning are members of the Afghan delegation.

MEDICAL COOPERATION CONTRACT SIGNED WITH USSR

LDT281816Y Kabul in English to Europe 1400 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] A contract for planning and preparing technical documents pertaining to projects including the 200-bed regional hospital and residential buildings for the medical personnel and a polyclinic at Kundoz in northern Afghanistan, a central blood bank with a capacity of 4,000 to 6,000 liters of plasma annually, and health insurance for 600 persons per day in Kabul, was signed by Afghan and Soviet authorities today. The accord was signed by the chief of planning of the Ministry of Public Health and a representative of the Soviet Tekhnostroy-export agency. The chief of health services of the Ministry of Health was also present.

Under the terms of this accord, technical documents for these projects will be completed and delivered to the Public Health Ministry within 9 months. The cost of the contract, amounting to R (?150,000) will be met out of the R9 million Soviet credit given to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for these projects.

BULGARIAN PARTY DAILY INTERVIEWS AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER

AU241324Y Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 21 Nov 78 p 5 AU

[Report on interview by Veselin Seykov, BTA special correspondent, with Hafizollah Amin, minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in Kabul on 20 November 1978]

[Text] Kabul, 20 November 1978--Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, gave an interview to RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondent Veselin Seykov. In answering the questions, Hafizollah Amin outlined the basic factors of the development of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and described the tasks facing the people of this country.

During the 6 months that have elapsed since our revolution, the political, economic, social and cultural changes in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have emerged clearly. The party of the workers class is enjoying the full support of our entire people, H. Amin declared. No government in the history of Afghanistan ever has had such vast support among the people as the government of the People's Democratic Party. The present-day slogan in Afghanistan reads as follows: "Everything at the service of the people and of the mother-land." The present government of the People's Democratic Party is using all sources of production development in order to promote the productive forces in implementing the revolutionary tasks aimed at creating the foundations of a society where the exploitation of man by man has been eliminated.

Today the workers represent the main moving force of our society. The state is taking measures aimed at improving the social conditions of all working people. After the Decree No 6 issued at the initiative of Nur Muhammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and premier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the farmers were freed from the heavy burden of feudal taxes and mortgages. Now, they are calmly and confidently participating in the cooperative movement, in creating the auxiliary funds and in other such initiatives. The same applies to our youth. According to Decree No 7 they are freed of the feudal traditions and are able to devote all their efforts and energies to the defense of their liberated country.

Today the various existing nationalities in our country have the opportunity of developing their own cultural traditions. The wide dissemination of publications in various languages such as Pashto, Dari, Uzbaki, Turkmen and Baluchi, demonstrate this in the most brilliant manner. About 50 years ago imperialism succeeded in its intention of imposing the Moslem religion as a facade for its goals with the assistance of reactionary forces within the country. Today these same circles are trying again to use the well-known trick, but they are facing the unshakable, firm resistance of all working people in Afghanistan who know only too well who their real enemies are.

The most important task for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the near future is the abolition of feudalism and the adoption of measures against the influence of imperialism and of its supporters. The most important steps toward an implementation of this goal are a democratic land reform and the fulfillment of the country's 5-year plan, which will insure the most necessary goods and facilities, such as housing and others.

The foreign policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as an extension of its domestic policy, is guided by the principle of universal peace, detente, full disarmament and support for the peoples throughout the world in their struggle for freedom. This is a policy of solidarity with the universal workers' movement, a policy aimed against war, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan unflinchingly adheres to the policy of nonalinement and to the application of this policy in settling various problems, such as the nonuse of military bases on foreign territories, the disbanding of aggressive military blocs, interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, as well as the struggle against aggression, against exploitation of working people by the imperialists, and so forth. Under this aspect, cooperation for the purpose of consolidating the nonalined countries' movement, cooperation in isolating the warmongers and unmasking any kinds of plans they are concocting against universal peace and security, the defense of the national rights and sovereignty of peoples throughout the world (such as, for example, the recognition of the DPRK as the only representative of all Koreans), the expansion of friendly relations with peace-loving and progressive forces in the world--these are the basic trends of the foreign policy conducted by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

I am fully convinced of the ascending development of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the socialist countries, because our mutual relations are built on the basis of sovereign equal rights and national independence, the principle of noninterference in each other's domestic affairs and on the principle of mutual respect. We are grateful for the selfless assistance we receive from the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, and we hope that other friendly countries, too, will render such assistance to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The development of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union represents the most eloquent example of good-neighborly relations, coexistence, and sincere friendship.

The friendly relations existing between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Bulgaria are also relations of friendship. We are greatly interested in the further development of these relations and we believe that they will increasingly continue to develop to the benefit of our two working peoples, H. Amin, minister of foreign affairs, stated in conclusion.

The experience of the Bulgarian people can be useful for the people of Afghanistan. Our people are well acquainted with Bulgaria's achievements, which are the results of socialism in your country. The Afghan people sincerely rejoice at the accelerated development of friendly relations between our two peoples.

BANGLADESH

BARTER TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH DPRK

BK2900015Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today signed the second barter protocol envisaging a turnover of flow of trade of 4.5 million pounds sterling each way. The protocol represents an increase of about 19 percent over the size of the earlier protocol. It was signed by the DPRK vice minister for foreign trade, Mr (Li Cheng-ong), and the Bangladesh commerce secretary.

The visiting DPRK vice premier, Mr Kye Ung-tae, and the commerce minister, Mr Saifur Rahman, were also present at the signing ceremony.

Under the protocol Bangladesh will import, among other things, cement, pig iron, billets, coal, magnesia clinker from the DPRK, while Korea will import raw jute, jute goods, leather and leather products, newsprint, paper, sugar, soap and detergents, and enameled copper wire.

Mr Kye told newsmen afterward that his delegation's visit to Bangladesh is to follow up the talks between President Zia and President Kim Il-song in September this year. He said his delegation had fruitful discussions with the leaders and officials of Bangladesh for further expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Mr Kye said he had a meeting with President Zia and discussed measures for further development of economic relations and expansion of trade.

The commerce minister, Mr Saifur Rahman, who also spoke on the occasion, said among the developing countries, the DPRK has achieved considerable progress in certain fields, including agriculture. Bangladesh, he said, can make use of the experience and expertise of the DPRK in various fields, particularly for the development of agriculture, coal mines and limestone.

Earlier, the DPRK vice premier called on the foreign minister, Mr Shamsul Haq, and the finance and planning minister, Dr M.N. Huda, and discussed with them matters of mutual interest.

INDIA

JANATA CANDIDATE DEFEATS CONGRESS-I RIVAL IN SAMASTIPUR

BK290741Y Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0735 GMT 29 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The Janata Party has won the Samastipur byelection in Bihar. According to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, the Janata Party candidate, Mr Ajit Kumar Mehta, has been declared the winner. He defeated his nearest rival, Congress-I candidate Mrs Tarkeshwari Sinha, by about 27,000 votes. The official announcement is awaited, but according to the agency report, Mr Mehta polled more than 243,000 votes against Mrs Tarkeshwari Sinha's total of approximately 216,000 votes.

'FEW INCIDENTS' OF VIOLENCE REPORTED DURING BIHAR BYELECTION

BK261616Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 78 BK

[Text] About 65 to 70 percent polling is reported in the Samastipur Lok Sabha byelection in Bihar. The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent reporting from Samastipur says that barring a few incidents of intimidation and violence, the 1-day polling was peaceful. Though there were 17 candidates in the field, the contest was mainly between the candidates of the Janata Party and the Congress-I. Counting of votes will be taken up on Tuesday morning and the result is expected the same day.

The byelection was caused by Mr Karpuri Thakoor's resignation from the Lok Sabha after he became the state chief minister last year.

According to the Bihar minister of state for revenue, Mr Shivnandan Paswan, about 50 workers of the Janata Party were injured during the polling. They include the state welfare minister, Mr Kameshwar Paswan. At Salempur, some miscreants are alleged to have hurled a bomb at Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, but he escaped.

Ten supporters of a political party were arrested in (?Kenda) village in (Dalsingh Salai) area. They had allegedly opened fire to intimidate voters resulting in injury to one person. The district magistrate of Samastipur, Mr Vijay Raghavan, who is also the returning officer for the Lok Sabha byelection told newsmen today that adequate protection has been given to weaker sections to enable them to exercise their franchise freely. The Congress-I leader, Mr Chandrashekher Singh, however, claims that a person died in police firing at a village called (Kursaha).

INDIA, ITALY EXPRESS DESIRE FOR JOINT VENTURES

BK251013Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Nov 78 BK

[Text] India and Italy will explore the possibilities for having joint ventures in a third country. This is one of the important points agreed upon by the Indian and Italian foreign ministers during their talks in New Delhi today.

Mr Vajpayee and the visiting Italian minister, Mr Arnaldo Forlani, touched upon a number of international and bilateral subjects during their 3-hour talks today. Both leaders were of the view that it would be useful to combine Italy's sophisticated technology with India's (?advancement) in the field of construction and design. They can take up profitably joint ventures in west Asian countries.

INDIA ALLOWS PANEL INSPECTION OF ATOMIC INSTALLATIONS

BK260949Y Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 19 Nov 78 p 1 BK

["Sell-Out to U.S. on N-Safeguards"--NATIONAL HERALD headline]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov, 18 (UNI)--An international panel of scientists chosen by India and the United States will examine all types of safeguards on atomic energy establishments and their effect on development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

This was stated by the government at a meeting of parliament's consultative committee on atomic energy, space, electronics and science and technology.

The clarification on the subject came from the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, the prime minister's principal secretary, Mr V. Shankar, and the Atomic Energy Commission chairman, Mr H.N. Sethna, after a leading Janata member objected to the appointment of such a scientists' panel on the ground that it would amount to indirect acceptance of full-scope safeguards.

There were some verbal exchanges between Mr Desai and Mr Krishan Kant on the government's nuclear policy regarding safeguards and peaceful nuclear explosion.

Mr Krishan Kant said that the panel of scientists would be trapped by the United States to make India accept full scope safeguard.

He also said the government's policy to abstain from the peaceful nuclear explosion was wrong.

He told the prime minister that the 1974 explosion should have been used by the government to pressurise other governments into stopping their nuclear test.

Mr Desai argued that the Pokharan explosion had not benefited the country, but Mr Krishan Kant differed from Mr Desai.

Further Details

BK260951Y Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Nov 78 p 1 BK

[By our special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, November 18--India has agreed to a U.S. suggestion for the appointment of a panel of scientists to examine all aspects of nuclear safeguards but the report of the panel would not be binding on the union government, it was officially stated here today.

India's acceptance of the U.S. proposal for the India-American panel of scientists came up for a discussion at the meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee attached to the Department of Atomic Energy.

Mr Krishan Kant, a prominent Janata MP, had some sharp exchanges with the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, Mr Krishan Kant feared that the appointment of the panel was part of the U.S. attempt to pressurise India to accept full-scope nuclear safeguards.

He questioned the government's policy of abstaining from peaceful nuclear explosions. Before surrendering on this point, the Government of India could have tried to make other countries stop their nuclear tests, he said. He did not agree with Mr Desai that the Pokharan test had not benefited India.

Mr Desai declined to give details about the recent talks between Indian officials and the U.S. official, Mr Joseph Nye. The prime minister put a counterquestion: "Don't you trust me?"

However, some clarification on the issue of scientists' panel was available from Mr Desai, Mr V. Shankar, the prime minister's principal secretary, and Mr H.N. Sethna, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

It was stated that the scientists chosen jointly by India and the United States would be independent people and would not represent the governments. The panel would examine the safeguards applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency and those imposed under the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

The panel would submit its report by September, 1979. The terms of reference and the names of the scientist's for the panel would be decided soon.

The government also reassured the members about the fuel supply for Tarapore. Work on alternative fuel technology was going on.

Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, a prominent Janata MP, expressed concern over the safety aspects of the Bhabha Atomic Energy Centre [BAEC] in the light of a recent magazine article. However, the government presented several documents, highlighting the inaccuracies in the Bombay weekly's article and said there were no hazards in any of the establishments. It was suggested that Dr Joshi could visit BAEC for an on-the-spot study.

NEPAL

THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST FORMER NEPALESE PREMIER

BK281620Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 28 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Nov 28 (AFP)--Thousands of demonstrators today occupied an airstrip to prevent a plane carrying deposed Premier B.P. Koirala from landing.

The plane carrying the former premier was forced to return to Katmandu after several thousand cadres of the partyless Panchayat polity stood on the runway at Pakhara airport 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Katmandu.

Mr Koirala was poised to begin a tour of western Nepal but thousands of Panchayat workers including members of the National Legislative Assembly staged a strong demonstration at Pokhara valley and all markets there went on strike in protest against the visit.

Mr Koirala had planned to make an inspection tour of various districts of west Nepal in order to study the political situation in the country.

The deposed premier, who has been acquitted of five treason charges by a tribunal, still faces two state offences charges.

PAKISTAN

MOSLEM LEAGUE ENDORSES PIR SAHEB PAGARO'S LEADERSHIP

BK281115Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The working committee of the Pakistan Moslem League meeting in Karachi today reposed full confidence in the leadership of Pir Saheb Pagaro. The committee meeting under the chairmanship of Pir Saheb Pagaro termed the behavior of the secretary general of the party, Malik Mohammad Qasim, as detrimental and prejudicial to the party. It took serious note of the holding of a parallel meeting by Malik Mohammad Qasim at Lahore, which in the opinion of the working committee, closed the door for any reconciliation move.

The committee recommended to the council to remove Malik Mohammad Qasim from the post of secretary general of the party. In all, 32 of the (?40) party working committee members are attending the meeting.

Group Acts Against Pagaro

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[Text] A requisition councillor meeting of the Pakistan Moslem League in Lahore today adopted a no confidence motion against Pir Saheb Pagaro and elected (Choudhri Mohammad Hussain Chitta) as the new president of the party.

The party secretary general, Malik Mohammad Qasim, told newsmen afterward that both the motions were carried by the meeting unanimously.

Haq Regrets Split

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[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the provincial governments will be set up as soon as the Pakistan national alliance is ready for it and there will be no delay on his part in this respect. He was talking to newsmen at the Sukkur airport on his arrival there.

He said the government is considering measures to improve the administrative structure of the country.

Answering a question, the president expressed regret at the split in the Pakistan Moslem League. He said he personnally tried his very best to unite the two rival groups of the Moslem League, but both groups were rigid in their stand. He said a flexible attitude should be adopted in politics and political parties should work on the principle of give and take.

Answering a newsman's question, President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said any party found to be indulging in propagating (?regionalism) or separatism will be dealt with according to the Political Parties Act.

About his visit to Sukkur, the president said he will use the occasion to directly meet various sections of the people to know their problems and difficulties. He said the Sind government and provincial administration are already busy solving the people's problems and difficulties and he would like to know what else can be done for the welfare of the common people.

He said he will address a news conference at the end of his visit in which a few decisions will be announced.

When a journalist from Khairpur invited him to visit his district, he said he very much wants to visit there.

The governor of Sind, Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, high civil and military officials and prominent citizens welcomed the president at the airport.

SRI LANKA

OVER 1,000 ESTIMATED DEAD FOLLOWING STORM

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[Excerpt] Colombo Nov 28 (AFP)--More than one thousand people are estimated to have died in the Eastern Province alone following the recent cyclone disaster, Justice Minister K.W. Devandyagam said last night after touring the area. He said damage caused by the cyclone in the area was about rupees 100 million.

Official sources said an estimate of the total deaths and damage could not be made yet as some of the affected areas were still inaccessible.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premandasa yesterday described the disaster as one of the worst in the country's history. Making a statement in parliament he thanked foreign governments and voluntary organisations for the prompt assistance provided by them for relief work. In addition to the Eastern Province, the North Central Province and the Northwestern Province were also directly affected by the cyclone which swept across the country leaving a trail of death and destruction. The cyclone, accompanied by strong winds and torrential rain, also caused floods and earthslips in other parts of the country.

Unofficial estimates said in addition to the dead more than one million people had been affected, 10,000 houses had been damaged and thousands of acres of crops had been destroyed.

President J.R. Jayewardene has opened a special fund known as "the president's fund", contributions to which will be tax free, to help cyclone victims.

The government has appointed a high-powered central committee, which includes the secretary to the cabinet and the secretary to the president, and voluntary organisations backed by foreign aid is being continued. Convoys of military trucks left Colombo daily with urgently needed food and fuel for the stricken areas while a aircraft of the Sri Lanka Air Force were conducting a round the clock operation dropping food packets and medicines to people in inaccessible areas, observers said.

Sri Lanka's foreign minister, A.C.S. Hameed yesterday met the ambassadors and other heads of missions of countries represented in Colombo and briefed them about the damage.